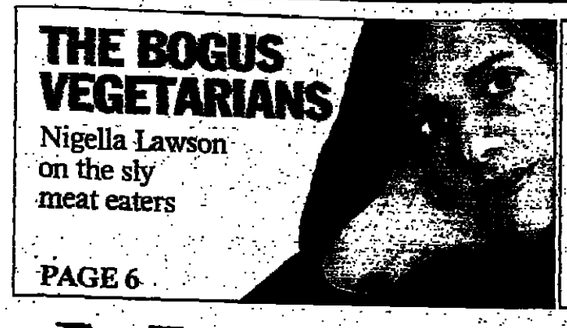
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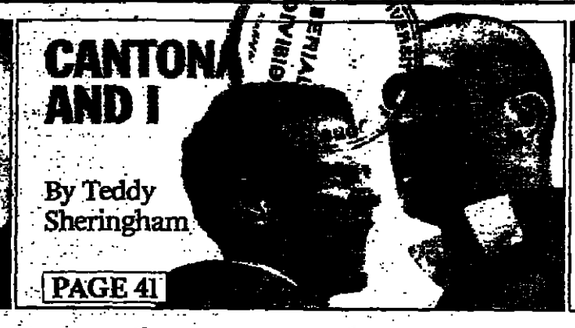
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Nigella Lawson on the sly meat eaters

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By Teddy Sheringham

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BROWN AND THE BACK TO WORK ETHIC

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Creme de la

The 12-page supplement for secretaries and PAs

PLUS INTERFACE – YOUR LINK WITH TECHNOLOGY

Massacre by the 'ethnic cleansers'

Feared Serb unit accused by survivors

FROM TOM WALKER IN LIKOSHANI

THE secretive Serb police unit linked with the "ethnic cleansing" that appalled the world after the break-up of Yugoslavia was blamed yesterday for the massacre of Albanians in Kosovo.

As more than 40,000 people gathered in the mountain village of Likoshani to bury their dead, survivors of one attack spoke of black-uniformed police units — a clue that members of the notorious "anti-terrorist" SAJ were involved in the killings.

"The Serbs have been killing, beating and arresting here and across Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia," Zylfije Hundozi, a psychiatrist in the front ranks of the mourners, said.

Western diplomats, too, believe that the SAJ is active again in Kosovo, where at least 20 people were slaughtered in police raids at the weekend. One said that he believed the unit was being run by a trusted henchman of President Milosevic, who was accused of starting a fresh wave of ethnic cleansing to preserve his power.

Yesterday, as the mourners came across the parched hills in their thousands, the silent pain and oppression was matched by an anger at a Serb police state that Albanians now refuse to recognise. On this windswept site were born the beginnings of the ethnic struggle that will make or break Europe's last great dictator. And in a land where Albanians outnumber Serbs nine to one, Mr Milosevic may finally have precipitated a war of ethnic hatred that could engulf the whole Balkan region.

In bright sunshine they came, forming a procession across the vast landscape made a cinematographer's dream: hundreds of tractors, each pulling trailers packed by local Albanians, crawling in a single file towards a green hilltop stained black with the funeral throng.

At the top of the hill designated as the funeral site, 21 graves were still being dug as politicians addressed the gathering crown. Long lines of silent mourners passed the bereaved, shaking hands, their heads bowed. Many of the older men wore suits and their traditional white pils hats, while swarms of young men preferred their jeans and leather jackets.

"I want to kill some Serbs, I want to spill blood," a young Albanian back from Germany said. And already there were reports of reprisal with the shooting of a serb policeman in the village of Drenica.

As they paid their respects to the victims and vilified the killers, details filtered out of a further massacre: that of nine members of the prosperous Ahmeti family and two of their guests in the village of Likoshani. A jigsaw of evidence seems to point to a brutal cleansing operation in which the men were beaten and later executed.

Their bodies were released from the state morgue in the capital, Pristina, yesterday and driven by grieving relatives along the main road west of the town. At a roadblock at the village of Komorane, however, the Serb police seemed to have second thoughts about the bodies and stopped the cortège. Witnesses say there was some gunfire, before the Albanians tried taking the bodies through woods towards Likoshani.

Journalists who had avoided the Serb police and navigated the back streets were meanwhile taken to the family compound, which caps the hill opposite the funeral site.

Outside the bullet-ridden and twisted metal gates was a stack of brushwood, around which the earth was stained dark by patches of blood. Human teeth and shreds of scalp completed the grisly spectacle. Inside the compound, the tracks of two armoured personnel carriers led to the house.

Family members described how police units had smashed their way in on Saturday and separated the women from the men, whom they then beat for four hours — with at least two police to every man, according to the widow of the patriarch, Ahmet Ahmeti. The men were then dragged outside and shot.

Other family members then showed where Serb snipers had taken up positions in nearby houses, and pointed out an Orthodox Serb cross scrawled on the wall of the Ahmeti house, with the inscription: "Next time it will be the same" beneath.

Why the family was targeted remains a mystery, although it had business links with Switzerland, from where the Kosovo Liberation Army is probably funded. The psychiatrist Ms Hundozi said that many of the family were under sedation after the attack and that the local population in general was numb with fear.

The Ahmeti family's descriptions of police in black uniforms added to suspicions that the SAJ — a 500-strong unit created by Mr Milosevic — was responsible.

The composition of the unit remains a secret, although it is known that many of the troops are part-timers and in the past members have been recruited from among the ranks of thugs used specifically for cleansing operations throughout the former Yugoslavia.

One diplomat in the area said he believed the SAJ was being run by Frenki Simatovic, one of the most feared members of the state security hierarchy, who has been spotted in Kosovo over the past month. "Look into your eyes and you shiver," a former Serb marine said.

Kosovo powderkeg, page 11
Leading article, page 19

DARKO VOJINOVIC



An estimated 40,000 ethnic Albanians gathered yesterday for the mass funeral of some of the 20 people killed by Serb police or paramilitaries in Kosovo province



Granada apology over M&S claims

Granada Television has apologised to Marks and Spencer and will pay £50,000 damages and £600,000 costs, over a programme saying that the company exploited child labour. The jury was told to watch the programme and come to a decision without hearing witnesses. Page 3

Defiant Irvine

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has insisted that the £650,000 refurbishment of his official residence was a "noble cause" and dismissed any criticism as a "storm in a teacup" Page 9

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Our people screwed up in Patten row, says Murdoch

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

RUPERT MURDOCH expressed regret yesterday that senior executives of the publishers HarperCollins were not forthright about the real reasons for dropping Chris Patten's book on China.

He said: "I did not tell people to try to censor the book or invent excuses not to do it. I said: 'Why don't you go and say we would rather have someone else publish this and if there is any chance of losing money we will make it good.'"

The chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation was speaking for the first time about the damaging row over the decision by HarperCollins — which, like *The Times*, is part of News Corp — not to publish the last Governor of Hong Kong's book, *East and West*.

Mr Murdoch said that he had expressed displeasure about the book to HarperCollins executives as long ago as July and told them to say that there were dozens of other publishers who would love to publish the book. "They chickened out and they got themselves into the position where they were inventing reasons in the middle of January why they just didn't want to publish it which were nonsense, leaving me in a completely inexcusable position."

One of the most damaging aspects of the row has been the fact that Stuart Proffitt, the former senior non-fiction editor at HarperCollins, has made a statutory declaration saying he was told by senior executives to argue that the book was not good enough. The instruction came after Mr Proffitt — who is now suing for constructive dismissal — had described the manuscript at a dinner for the book trade as the most lucid and intelligent he had received from a politician in 15 years in publishing.

Yesterday Mr Murdoch, speaking from his car on to way to Luton airport after a brief stopover in Britain, said that the executives at HarperCollins had "screwed it up". As a result Mr Proffitt, who was a very good editor, was able to take up the "position of a martyr" and Mr

Continued on page 2, col 6

Tax reprieve hints for Tessa savers

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND POLLY NEWTON

PEOPLE who have ploughed their savings into Peps and Tessas are expected to win a tax reprieve from Gordon Brown in the Budget on March 17.

Fresh hints that the Chancellor is to make important changes to his plans for the new individual savings accounts to avoid people who have saved big sums from being taxed retrospectively came in the Commons yesterday as the Conservatives attacked the proposals in a special debate.

At the same time, well-placed government sources told *The Times* that Mr Brown's plans would definitely be changed to meet the fears that they were penalising the middle-class voters who supported the Government last May.

The move would be good news for the estimated 400,000 who have saved more than Mr Brown's £50,000 tax-free limit for the new Isas. There were even hints that the limit could be raised.

Both Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, told MPs they were unable to give any further details. But after an MP said that people who had used Peps and Tessas to build up a second pension were certain to be penalised Mr Darling seemed to imply that concessions were likely.

Tory bait, page 9
Budget countdown, page 27

Ballroom ceiling crashes the royal party

BY ALAN HAMILTON

URGENT checks were being conducted on the Buckingham Palace ballroom ceiling last night after part of it fell on a man watching his father being invested by the Queen.

Nicholas Howell, 28, required nine stitches to two head wounds at St Thomas's Hospital when a gilded plaster moulding plunged more than 40 ft and struck him on the head and leg as he sat among 500 other guests at one of the Queen's regular Tuesday investitures. He was allowed home after treatment, his suit still spattered with dust and blood.

Last night the Queen, who was said to be shocked by the incident, issued an invitation to Mr Howell to attend one of her summer garden parties, in an open-air setting well away from ceilings.

Palace officials closed the ballroom as soon as the ceremony was over. Staff said that the ceiling had been inspected only three weeks ago as part of a regular five-yearly maintenance programme, and that no structural faults had been found.

The Palace denied that maintenance work on the palace was being skimped since the Royal Household took over direct responsibility for its own buildings in 1991. The fact that £300,000 less was spent on maintaining the palace in 1997 than in the previous year was the result of better management and financial control, it said.

Mr Howell was seated with other members of his family to see his father Keith, 58, received from the Queen the insignia of his OBE for services to the Office of Fair Trading, where he is head of publicity and marketing.

The hour-long ceremony was almost over; Professor Eric Hobsbawn had been invested as a Companion of Honour, Sir Robin Janvrin, the Queen's deputy private secretary, had received his knighthood and Mr Howell the insignia of his OBE. The Queen was working her way through the last major category of the morning, the MBEs.

Suddenly there was a loud bang, which some members of the audience said afterwards they momentarily thought was a bomb. Mr Howell, seated on an upholstered banquette towards the back of the 123 ft long ballroom, about 100 ft from the Queen, was struck a glancing blow by the 18 in lump of gilded plaster fruit and foliage.

At the sound of the crash the Queen looked up, but after a momentary pause continued with the ceremony. The military band at the back of the room played on.

Palace officials and first-aiders rushed to help Mr Howell, from Wimbledon, southwest London, and carried him bleeding from the ballroom. He later joked about his experience, describing it as "a big day out that went a little bit wrong."



"Marry me and we'll live like royalty, you said . . ."

Good manners, page 5

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Being ever so humble, there's no place quite like this home

POLITICAL SKETCH

The Lord Chancellor yesterday unveiled the most expensive crockery in the history of English *porcelain. The affair of the* refurbishment of his Lords apartment, he told MPs, was "a storm in a teacup". £650,000! Some teacup.

The venue for the teacup's press launch was a place of splendour almost rivalling Lord Irvine's own pad. The carved oak doors of Committee Room 8 at the Palace of Westminster had opened to admit a scrum of journalists to a room carpeted in Pugineque designs of red, blue and green, and exquisite wallpaper (ah, wallpaper!) in red and silver. Here the Commons Select Committee on Public Administration was to question the Lord Irvine of Lairg.

Question him on what? Who cares! Journalists just wanted to see him carpeted. Opportunities to question a figure of such majesty are rare — you do not bump into Lord Irvine on buses — and we suspected that, though the Committee's inquiry was actually into information and human rights legislation, ingenious MPs would find a way to bring the conversation round to wallpaper. Wallpaper was the story.

So imagine the disappointment when the chairman, Rhodri Morgan (Lab, Cardiff W) asked about privacy laws instead. The normally grand Lord Irvine had listened to spin-doctors. "Don't blurt things out," they had advised. "Be 'umble; promise to write to them."

He was unbelievably 'umble. He really didn't know a lot about this, he told MPs; he wasn't the minister in charge.

It was the turn of the resentful-seeming Melanie Johnson (Lab, Welwyn Hatfield) to question. Wallpaper, surely? Spirits sank as she began an interminable string of questions about judicial appointments. Even more 'umble, he promised to write to her on this and that. Was she, he asked, ever so 'umbly; "hospitable to my idea?"

Richard Shepherd (C, Aldridge-Brownhills) came next, grinning sardonically. Did he have a wallpaper question up his sleeve? No. Clever questions, cleverly asked, elicited a series of 'umble replies. Lord Irvine would write to Mr Shepherd, too.

Still no wallpaper. We despaired. Then the chairman called David Ruffley (Bury St Edmunds), a Tory with an instinct for the jugular. We sat up. If the Government were so keen on freedom of information, sneered Ruffley, why was it so hard to drag the truth from the Lord Chancellor about his refurbishment plans?

Blue touch-paper: Irvine went for it. 'Umility was cast aside. Interrupting the MP ("this is a speech, Mr Ruffley") he started to declaim . . . about wallpaper!

Hoorah! Facts and opinions, complaints, dates, justifications and protests came pouring out.

At last! Something Lord Irvine was passionate about. It was he who had volunteered the subject. "I want to seize the wallpaper charge straight on the chin," he cried, eyes blazing.

"But we are here to talk about freedom of information," whimpered Mike Hancock (Lib Dem, Portsmouth S).

"This is *quality* wallpaper," cried the Lord Chancellor. "Not something from a DIY store which may collapse after a year or two."

The idea of one's wallpaper falling down surprised Mike Hancock, who said B&Q could do better. Lord Irvine looked baffled.

A colleague whispered to him — probably telling him what B & Q was. He resumed his disquisition on interior decoration.

"When they said this would be about the pattern book," complained Rhodri Morgan, "I thought they were referring to the writings of the former Governor of Hong Kong."

It was the shrewd-seeming Andrew Tyrie (C, Chichester) who asked whether Irvine had foreseen the fuss. "A remarkable storm in a teacup," said Lord Irvine, beginning to calm down. The storm had abated.

But the teacup will be all over today's newspapers.

Corrupt officials face dismissal for their first offence

By Philip Webster, Valerie Elliott, and Mark Henderson

CORRUPT councillors and officials who bring local government into disrepute will be thrown out of office after a single offence, under plans to be unveiled by Tony Blair today.

The policy will apply if councillors breach a stringent new code of conduct, the Prime Minister will reveal. At the same time the Government is taking powers to tackle under-performing, ailing and inefficient councils. Hit squads made up of local government experts, accountants and businessmen will be sent in to take over their management.

At present such teams can only go in with the approval of local councils. Now the law will be changed to force councils to comply. But Mr Blair will also unveil new incentives for councils that are performing well. Successful councils will rewarded with greater powers and financial flexibility, in what he says is a "carrot and stick" approach.

Mr Blair's firm line on corruption and sleaze, after years in which Labour has been embarrassed by the behaviour of a minority of its councils, are to be spelt out in a pamphlet for the Institute of Public Policy Research, the left-leaning think tank.

In it he says the vast majority of councillors are "decent, honest and incredibly hard-working. We cannot let the behaviour of the few undermine the reputation of the many. Councillors and officials that are incompetent or corrupt not only undermine their leadership credentials but sully the reputation of local government as a whole. We cannot and will not tolerate corruption."

In a fierce warning to poor councils, he says: "If you are unwilling or unable to work to the modern agenda, then the Government will have to look to other partners to take on their role." Underlining the incentive to good behaviour, he adds: "If you accept this challenge, you will not find us wanting. You can look forward to an enhanced role and new power. Your contribution will be recognized, your status enhanced."

But in the document Mr Blair directly confronts the troubles that have dogged Labour on Merseyside, Hackney and Lambeth. He scathingly speaks out about councillors who get "trapped in the secret world of the caucus and the party group."

A key plank of his ideas is for greater community leadership, and he calls on councils to let local people have their say. He wants them to use citizens' juries, local surveys and even local referendums to identify local concerns. He will say these measures should "become part and parcel of a council's tool kit to help it exercise its leadership function."

Mr Blair will also call for new targets from every authority in Britain to improve the number of voters at local elections and to strengthen local participation in the government of their community.

Yesterday the Government announced new plans under which councils will have to ask local taxpayers which services they want their local authority to provide, and how they want them delivered.

Under the plans to scrap compulsory competitive tendering, a new system of "best value", in which councils must set and meet demanding targets for service improvement after public consultation, will be introduced.

Man who heckled Dobson is health chief

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

A HECKLER who embarrassed the Health Secretary Frank Dobson by shouting "boring" during his speech at a formal Westminster dinner was unmasked yesterday as the director of a health authority.

Knighton Berry, 49, a non-executive director of West Sussex Health Authority, having brought proceedings to a sudden halt with his outburst, walked out in front of hundreds of astonished guests.

His £5,000 per year part-time post on the health authority, which has an annual £400 million budget, was immediately thrown into doubt last night. An embarrassed Mr Berry apologised last night for his conduct.

Mr Dobson, who was clearly taken aback by the public insult at the lounge suit dinner at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre, retorted: "I didn't think it was that boring," before bringing his speech to an abrupt end.

Mr Berry, an occupational psychologist who specialises in improving personnel relations in industry and commerce, was one of 700 guests at the dinner hosted by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee. Guests had only completed their first course when the Health Secretary, who was guest of honour, rose to speak. With the wine flowing and the majority of the guests listening attentively, Mr Dobson reeled off his best jokes. As Mr Dobson then launched into the important role which pharmacists should play in giving advice to people who call on them, it all became too much. Mr Berry stood up and shouted: "You're boring, Frank. I'm leaving." He turned on his heel, and walked out. Tory MPs in the 700-strong audience confessed they had never seen anything like it at such a formal occasion.

Mr Berry said last night: "I deeply regret the remarks I made about the Secretary of State's speech. I would like to place my apologies on record to Mr Dobson, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, and the hundreds of guests present."



Knighton Berry, who heckled Frank Dobson at a dinner

Dons see red over Cambridge gowns proposal

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

CAMBRIDGE University has been forced to reconsider proposals to lift a centuries-old ban on the wearing of other universities' gowns on formal occasions, after a revolt in the dons' parliament yesterday.

The ceremonials, known as "scarlet days" after the colour of Cambridge higher-degree gowns, have been the subject of controversy for two decades. Dons who graduated from other universities are obliged to wear the black Cambridge MA gown for degree congregations and other meetings requiring formal academic dress.

In a strongly worded report to the ruling Regent House, the university council recommended relaxing the rule because it said it was "no longer acceptable to divide the staff of the university into sheep and goats according to their place of graduation".

A similar proposal for change, in 1979, was defeated by 151 votes to 88. But, with the rules for membership of Regent House changing in the interim, it was expected that the university leadership's desire not to be considered discourteous to other institutions would carry the day. After an impassioned debate, however, the traditionalists won the first stage of their battle to maintain the status quo. Dr Christopher Morley, a fellow of Trinity College, who had refused to sign the council's motion, said the change would replace scarlet days with "motley days".

Dr Joan Whitehead, an education lecturer and Open University graduate, who had described the restrictions as "a bit insulting" to other universities, appealed for dons' support for the change. But the proposal was referred back to the council for consideration next term.

Timothy Milner, a Cambridge MA and expert on academic dress, said the proposal would allow him to wear his University of Wales gown over "Lycra, lime bathing shorts". Present rules require dons to wear dark, sober clothes beneath gowns, but Cambridge could not make rules for other universities.

John Baker, professor of English legal history, said the plan was motivated by vanity. "Whatever some people seem nowadays to think, the prime purpose of academical dress is not to aggrandise the wearer," he said.

Mr Milner argued that academics should be allowed to wear a Cambridge gown equivalent to that awarded by their own university, a right already accorded to graduates of Oxford University.

Editor defends Times coverage of China

By Our Foreign Staff

THE Chinese coverage of *The Times* was attacked last night by Jonathan Mirsky, its former East Asia Editor, who claimed coverage had been curtailed to suit the interests of Rupert Murdoch. The claim was originally made in a speech to a meeting of the Freedom Forum in London last month and has recently become available on the Internet.

Dr Mirsky said that, from four days after the handover, readers of *The Times* would have thought that Hong Kong had been airlifted to Pluto. He said: "We have here what is arguably the traditionally most famous paper in the world, and it has just decided — it has not taken an executive decision, but an owner's position — to leave China and Hong Kong alone."

He also accused the Editor of being over-influenced by an official visit to China.

Last night Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*, strongly rebutted Dr Mirsky's allegations. Mr Stothard said in a statement: "The China coverage of *The Times* is wholly and solely in the hands of the Editor. I have never taken an editorial decision to suit Mr Murdoch's interests. Nor have I ever been asked to.

"*The Times* has always given support to the Patten reforms in Hong Kong. The intensity and frequency of that support has varied with my assessment of the facts and circumstances. Our treatment of China is the same as any other country in that respect. No other factor has been relevant other than my own assessment and that of a small number of colleagues, including Dr Mirsky. Contrary to his account, Dr Mirsky never wrote leaders for *The Times*.

"Dr Mirsky says that there have been no leaders on China or Hong Kong since May. There have been at least six. In recent months the economic and political crises in other countries in Asia have attracted our and others' attention more. I am not surprised that Dr Mirsky should be unhappy about this. No correspondent likes the spotlight to leave his or her patch. I am only surprised at the virulence of the attacks on colleagues whose news judgments differed from his own.

"Like every foreign corespondent, Dr Mirsky wrote more copy than appeared in the paper. Like every corresondent, he had regular discussions with the Foreign Desk about what was wanted to tell the story to British readers. Like every correspondent, he had disagreements about what should and should not be written and published.

"During 1997 *The Times* published 218 news stories on China, 124 by Jonathan Mirsky and 94 by our Beijing correspondent, James Pringle. *The Daily Telegraph* in the same period ran 192 stories.

"Many stories in *The Times* have been fiercely critical of Chinese policies. Many, but not all, of these have been written by Dr Mirsky. They included a supportive review of the Dimbleby book on Patten which backed the Governor's case for his 'betrayal' by London. *The Times* also ran a leader supporting Patten's role in the Dimbleby book.

"Dr Mirsky's account of my own trip to China last year is a travesty of the truth. I was never promised an interview with President Jiang Zemin or any Chinese leader. I offered the Embassy areas that I would like to discuss if any meeting or interview were arranged. I was happy to see Deputy Premier Zhu Rongji with whom, after discussion with Dr Mirsky and others, I raised the case of the dissidents Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan. This subject was indeed not welcome to the Deputy Premier, who replied that he had not intended our meeting to be an interview.

"Dr Mirsky has a distinguished record as a commentator and academic analyst of China, which is why I appointed him four and a half years ago. Our Beijing correspondent, James Pringle, is a veteran foreign correspondent whose experience of China, with Reuter and *Newsweek*, goes back to the Cultural Revolution. It is Mr Pringle's coverage from Beijing which Mr Mirsky describes as being 'not in a serious way'. I am disappointed that he should take that view of a respected colleague."

Patten China book row

Continued from page 1

Patten's agent Michael Sissons was able to "work it for a lot of publicity to sell a lot more books".

Mr Murdoch added that the decision to drop Mr Patten's book had been entirely his initiative: "I have never been under any pressure from the Chinese or asked to do anything."

Most commentators have assumed that the book was dropped to safeguard News Corp's economic prospects in China. But Mr Murdoch suggested that the motives may have been, at least partly, more personal. "I have always been a bit negative about him [Chris Patten] ever since I thought he was undermining [Baroness] Thatcher. And I think he made a bit of a fool of himself out there [Hong Kong] after suddenly discovering democracy at the end of a 100-year rule. If he had discovered it a little earlier, it might have been more convincing, but that's all."

He believes that no one has been hurt by the row "except us in a PR sense because our people cocked it up at the end. I just regret that our people weren't more forthright about it at the very beginning when I was with them."

Mr Murdoch's comments came as the potential rebellion of authors appeared to gather pace. At least three have now withdrawn books from the publishers and Mr Patten's literary agent says he cannot contemplate submitting any new material to HarperCollins until certain conditions were met, including acknowledging "the wrong that has been done to both to Chris Patten and Stuart Proffitt".

But Mr Murdoch played down the importance of an authors' rebellion. "HarperCollins is a fine publishing house with a great history and it will go on. You are always concerned if important authors desert but there is always a difference of opinion about who the important authors are and we do over 1,000 books a year. This is being whipped up by the obvious papers."

On the press coverage, the News Corp chairman said he would not be worried if it were only "the regular Murdoch haters", *The Independent* and *The Guardian*. But he added: "It's the *Telegraph* that is giving it the run."

Despite the criticisms of HarperCollins executives and, by implication, the executive chairman Eddie Bell, there are no signs that heads are about to roll. One possibility is that Mr Bell will become chief executive of HarperCollins and a new chairman will be appointed.

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Interest	£203.95	Interest	£240.43
Total Credit Amount	£1020.60	Total Credit Amount	£1202.04
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M&S victory on Granada TV's child labour slur

BY FRANCES GIBB, TIM JONES AND PETER FOSTER

GRANADA Television publicly apologised to Marks and Spencer yesterday and agreed to pay an estimated £50,000 damages and more than £600,000 costs over a television programme alleging that the company exploited child labour.

The sudden settlement was reached just three days into a six-week trial after Mr Justice Popplewell invited the jury to view the programme and decide what it meant without hearing any evidence from witnesses.

In a move that promised to keep costs down and save court time, the judge asked the jurors to indicate what message they thought that the programme had conveyed to millions of viewers. Lengthy submissions by the opposing sides were thus avoided and no evidence from witnesses on the facts of the case was heard by the jury.

In a traditional libel trial both sides have the chance to argue over the truth of the allegations and to cross-examine witnesses. Instead, without anyone entering the witness box, the jury was faced with a choice between two contrasting interpretations of the programme.

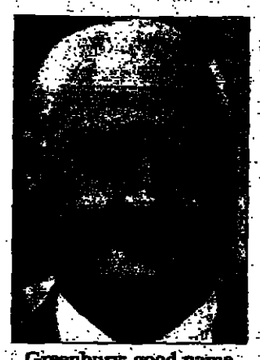
After hearing short submissions from each side, the jury held that the *World in Action* programme, *St Michael: has the halo slipped?*, broadcast in January 1996, did give millions of viewers the impression the company had deliberately misled customers by selling foreign made garments labelled "Made in the UK".

Lawyers yesterday said the move by the judge to turn the action into a "sudden death" trial could pave the way for swift settlements.

Legal costs of between £750,000 and £1 million were estimated to have been saved, although £1 million in costs had been run up already. Lawyers will not be paid for the days not spent in court.

But more crucially for future libel actions, if evidence in a case is not heard, a vital weapon in the armoury of defendants, who bank on the exposure a plaintiff faces in a libel suit as a disincentive to actions, is removed.

Marks and Spencer had alleged that the programme was defamatory because it suggested the company knowingly and deliberately knew one of its suppliers was using child labour at a Moroccan factory. The programme had suggested that the company knowingly and deliberately misled its customers by labelling foreign-made garments "Made in the UK". Granada insisted the programme meant only that Marks and Spencer had not made adequate checks about the conditions in which the garments were made.



Greenbury: good name "is our greatest asset"

Yesterday George Carman QC, for Marks and Spencer, told Mr Justice Popplewell and the jury that there was "no truth whatsoever" in the allegations, and this was accepted by Granada "without reservation". The programme had "plunged a dagger" into the heart of a great British institution whose reputation had been "savaged, assassinated and destroyed," he added.

Charles Gray, QC, for Granada, said the television company had never meant to convey, and did not believe it had conveyed, the meanings found by the jury, although it accepted the verdict.

The programme had said that the factory investigated by Granada had in the past lawfully employed a small proportion of 13 and 14-year-olds as apprentices, and that one consignment of pyjamas made at the factory was mislabelled "Made in the UK". The girls had worked a 49-hour-week in sweltering conditions for as little as 10 pence per hour.

Marks and Spencer accepted those facts but said it was was totally ignorant of them at the time. As a result of the programme the company stopped doing business with the supplier.

After the settlement, Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks and Spencer, said: "We are delighted at the outcome of this case, which vindicates the decision to defend our reputation vigorously. I am proud to be chairman of this company, with its traditions of caring and straight-dealing. Our good name is our greatest asset. We will always take firm action to protect our reputation."

Granada Television said the jury's interpretation of its *World in Action* programme had no bearing on the facts uncovered by its journalists, which it stood by.

The judge's unusual move could bring to an end the long show-case trials featuring spats between top Queen's Counsel, where the meaning of an alleged libel is a key part of the dispute. It is also the latest sign of a more "hands-on" approach by judges, who now have to control the pace of litigation as proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls.

Geraldine Proudler, solicitor for Marks and Spencer, said: "If this is what's going to happen from now on. It's the sudden death option — or Russian roulette."

Patrick Swaffer, solicitor for Granada, said his reaction was one of bewilderment. He added: "This has never been done before. It is entirely unsatisfactory because it gave us no opportunity for the jury to consider all the issues together."

ROBIN MAYES



Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare poses with Dame Edna Everage at his London penthouse, overlooking most of the city he hopes to rule as mayor. The bestselling author had invited the world's press yesterday to announce that he is investing in a £700,000 musical spectacle starring Australia's pantomime dame (Dalya Alberge writes). Making a grand entrance into his reception room, Dame Edna performed to the cameras in a diamante-studded purple dress that matched her famous horn-rimmed glasses and purple wig and clashed with his paintings by Monet and Pissarro. The musical will be her story — her childhood, youth and marriage. Her creator, Barry Humphries, described her as "a kind of upmarket Judi Dench, an attractive Glenda Jackson and a well-dressed Diana Rigg".

Lord and dame make spectacle of themselves

Although Lord Archer was laughing, he looked a little awkward, twice developing a sudden need to straighten neatly stacked art books on a coffee-table. He was at his most relaxed when discussing the serious side of the business, noting how his investment involves two anonymous friends, and that he invests in the theatre "all the time". He mentioned a small involvement in *Phantom of the Opera* that has paid off. A cheque arrives every three months, he said. He made a loss on *Martin Guerre* "but I don't look upon it as a way of making money". *Edna, the Spectacle Returns*, with lyrics by Mr Humphries and Kit Hesketh-Harvey and music by James McConnel, opens in Guildford on March 12 and transfers to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, on March 21.

Full Monty faces £60 m plagiarism suit

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE makers of *The Full Monty* film have been served with a $100 million (£60 million) plagiarism lawsuit by two writers who say the film is based on their play.

Stephen Sinclair and Anthony McCarten, both New Zealanders, claimed in a Los Angeles court that the British hit about unemployed steelworkers who turn to stripping for a living "bodily appropriated" their 1987 play entitled *Ladies' Night*. They are demanding *The Full Monty*'s entire worldwide profits. The lawsuit was criticised as the latest bid by aggrieved writers to cash in on a box office stampede.

"It seems like these days almost every film has this kind of claim," Bert Fields, a defence lawyer for Fox Searchlight Pictures who also represented Dreamworks SKG in its recent battle over the script of *Amistad*, said.

The allegation is a severe blow to the film's chances of winning an Oscar. It was nominated for four Academy Awards and the votes are due in by March 17, giving the film's backers a fortnight to defuse a publicist's nightmare.

Plagiarism is notoriously hard to prove under US law but the New Zealanders have launched a carefully timed broadside. Claiming the film lifts its entire cast and plot from *Ladies' Night*, they have argued that *The Full Monty*'s screenplay should have been nominated by the Academy as "adapted", not "original".

They have also sought a permanent injunction banning further commercial exploitation of the film, whose release on video is expected to earn more than $100 million. Made for $3.5 million, it has already earned over $200 million at the international box office, making it one of the most profitable films ever.

Uberto Pasolini, producer of *The Full Monty*, said yesterday that his film was "a wholly, completely original piece of work". He admitted its premise was not unique, telling the *Los Angeles Times* that Granada Television had begun work on a similar project called *The Bare Necessities*. But, challenged specifically about *Ladies' Night*, he insisted: "I haven't seen the play and no-one connected with the film has seen the play." First performed in New Zealand in 1987, *Ladies' Night* features a group of unemployed men in a northern British city cajoled into stripping for money. It became New Zealand's most successful play and was performed in British theatres more than 500 times between 1990 and 1996, the lawsuit claims.

Donald Engel, the plaintiffs' lawyer, denied the suit was timed to inflict maximum embarassment in the middle of the Oscar season. "We prepared the case about as quickly as we could," he said.

Teenager allowed to appeal over murder case

BY ADAM FRESCO

A TEENAGER convicted of helping to murder his domineering mother with his brother and father was given leave to appeal yesterday.

John Howells, now 17, had admitted only that he helped to dispose of the stonemason's hammer that his brother, Glenn, now 18, used to beat their mother Eve to death at their home in Huddersfield. Mrs Howells, a history and religious education teacher, was said to have intimidated her family for years.

Glenn had admitted manslaughter on the ground of provocation. Both teenagers were ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure. David Howells, 49, was jailed for life for plotting his wife's killing.

Howells senior was yesterday denied leave to appeal against his conviction. His counsel had argued that secretly recorded conversations between him and his sons while they were detained by police should not have been used in the trial.

Aidan Marron QC, for John Howells, successfully argued that the jury had been allowed to hear the issue of provocation for Glenn and should have been allowed to hear the case of provocation on behalf of John.

Murdered doctor's family sue boyfriend

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE family of a doctor strangled with the cord of a vacuum cleaner three years ago began a civil action yesterday against a former boyfriend.

Joan Francisco's family are seeking up to £50,000 damages from Anthony Diedrick for assault and battery. He has never been charged with the crime, and it is believed to the first time that civil action has been taken against a person suspected of murder without a preceding criminal prosecution.

Relatives claim that Mr Diedrick, 38, a computer studies graduate, had a "violent and perverted obsession" with Dr Francisco, 27, that reached a crisis point, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mr Diedrick is alleged to have stalked Dr Francisco for months before the murder, using a £200 body-heat detector to check that she was at home, and a listening device, which he placed against a kitchen window.

Dr Francisco's body was found in the hallway of her basement flat in St John's Wood, northwest London, on Boxing Day 1994.

Her mother, Venus, 59, and elder sister, Margrette, 37, sat only feet away from Mr Diedrick as Patrick O'Connor, QC, for the family, said that they sought to prove that he was the murderer. He described the young doctor, an obstetrician at Queen Charlotte Hospital, West London, as a "highly intelligent, successful and beautiful woman" who had ended a two-year relationship with Mr Diedrick about six years before.

Mr O'Connor told Mr Justice Alliott that Mr Diedrick "harboured a violent and perverted obsession for her in the intervening years. That obsession intensified in the months before Christmas 1994 and reached crisis on the day of her murder."

He added: "The family's case is this was no random crime never to be solved. The nature of the murder calls for a very unusual explanation specific to the deceased personally and to some relationship with the murderer."

Her death, from asphyxia, happened between 8.50am, when her mother telephoned with a wake-up call, and 9.40am when she rang again. Dr Francisco, who had been due to fly to California that day for a holiday with her sister, had not been sexually assaulted, nor was there any evidence of a burglary. It was no coincidence, Mr O'Connor said, that Mr Diedrick knew of her departure and imagined she was leaving permanently.

The case continues.



Joan Francisco was allegedly stalked by Anthony Diedrick. He has never been charged with murder

Pair who recruited killer are accused

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

TWO men who recruited a 6ft 5in robber to raid a jeweller's shop became murderers when he stabbed the shop owner to death, a court was told yesterday.

Orlando Sir stabbed Gerry Hales, a 61-year-old grandfather, 34 times with a commando knife in front of passers-by in Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan. He had been taken to the shop on the back of a motorcycle driven by Charles Frayne while Dallas Lee waited in a getaway car, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Sir, 28, from Brighton, who has pleaded guilty to murdering Mr Hales, also stabbed a passer-by who went to the dying man's rescue.

John Charles Rees, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury: "This was a well-planned and high-stakes robbery involving all three men. They knew Sir was armed and they knew violence might be used. It's inconceivable they did not think anyone might stop Sir. These two cannot escape responsibility for the actions of a man they recruited from outside the area to actually commit the robbery."

Both Mr Lee, 27, of Brynna, and Frayne, 21, of Penfwyn, Cardiff, deny murder and wounding with intent. Lee also denies robbery, which Frayn has admitted.

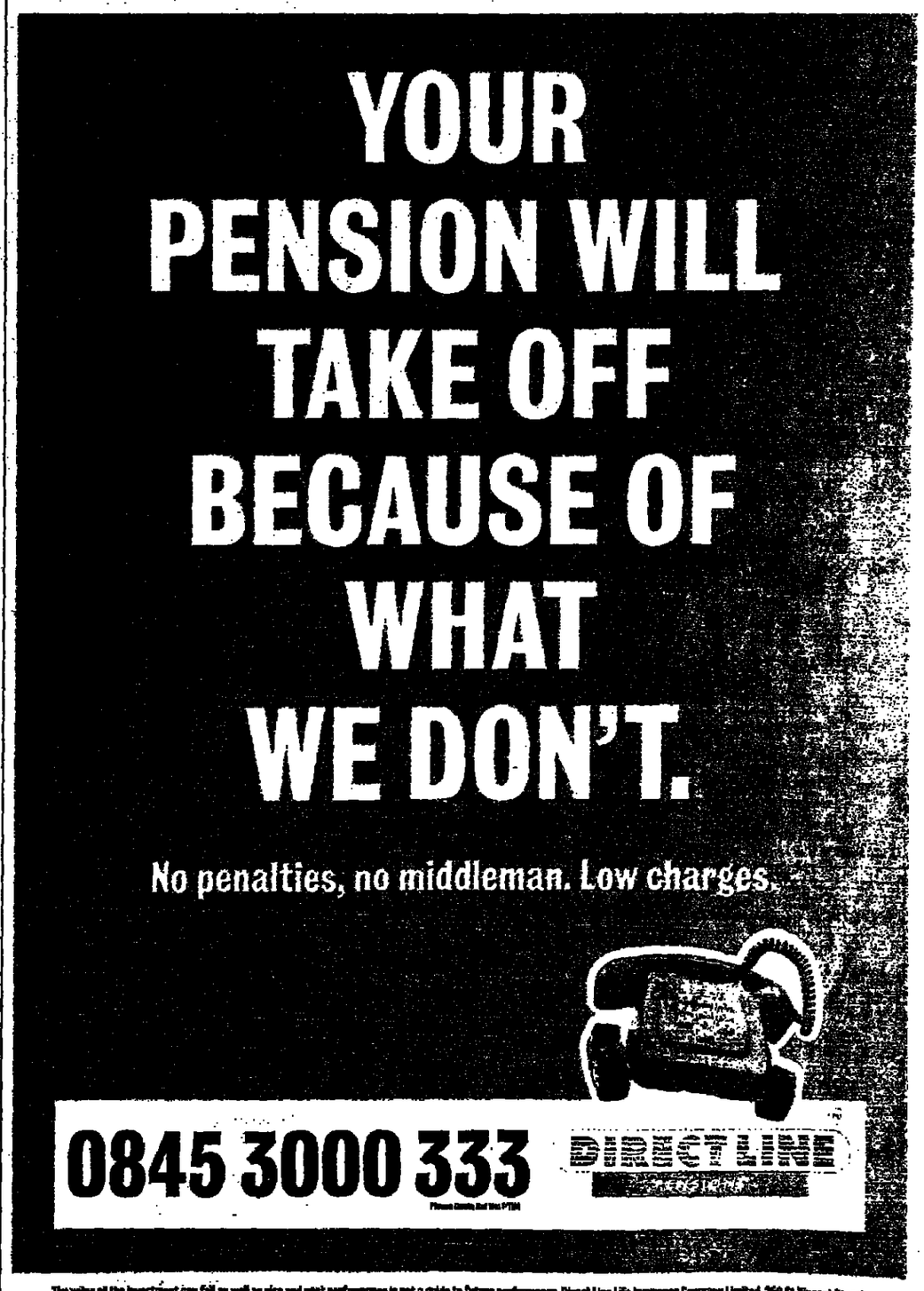
Joseph Gatt, 28, a floor layer was passing in his van when he spotted the masked man attacking the shopkeeper. Mr Gatt told the court he acted by instinct. "I thought he was punching the jeweller. Then I realised he was stabbing him. He was also kicking and head-butting him. It was a horrific fight. I got out of the van and charged towards the chap fighting the jeweller. I hit and tackled him from behind and all three of us fell on the floor.

"I started fighting the chap with the helmet on the floor. At first I thought I was being punched. Then I realised I had been stabbed several times."

Mr Gatt was operated on for his injuries and was in hospital for eight days. He had been stabbed seven times in his left side.

Mr Rees said that Sir fled with passers-by in pursuit, dropping most of the £47,000 of jewels he had stolen.

The trial continues.



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Yellow ribbons fly again for au pair

BY RUSSELL JENKINS AND DANIEL MCGRORY

LOUISE WOODWARD'S village in Cheshire is busily replacing the ragged yellow ribbons still fluttering around trees, lampposts and garden gates with fresh ones in time for her appeal.

Her supporters will watch the proceedings unfold in the Supreme Judicial Court in Boston, Massachusetts, on Friday afternoon on a giant satellite television screen in the bar of The Rigger public house in the centre of Elton.

However, given the disapproval that greeted the joyous scenes when Miss Woodward was freed in November, they say their celebrations will be more low key if she succeeds.

They will have to wait up to seven weeks for the outcome of the appeals. Miss Woodward, 20, is appealing against conviction and the prosecution is calling for her to be returned to jail after the trial judge replaced a verdict of murder with one of manslaughter in the death of the child in her care. Meanwhile, Miss Woodward must remain in Boston, living with her lawyer, Elaine Whitfield Sharp.

Robertson urges Gulf forces to have anthrax jab

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALL 3,500 servicemen and women in the Gulf, on land, in ships or in aircraft over Iraq, were urged strongly by the Government yesterday to have anthrax vaccinations.

As encouragement to the troops, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, and Air Marshal John Baird, the Surgeon-General, went to St Thomas' Hospital in London to have anthrax jabs.

Mr Robertson, who is due to fly to the Gulf shortly to meet the British forces, has written to all servicemen and women in the area, and to their families at home, to explain why he believes the anthrax vaccination programme is necessary. His letter said: "The fact is that Saddam Hussein has lied and cheated about his programme to acquire weapons of mass destruction. This is why you are in the Gulf, to ensure he does not rebuild his capability. But it does mean that, while we currently judge the threat of him using such weapons as low, we cannot be wholly certain that this will not change in the future."

Mr Robertson has been receiving advice from a medical committee, set up only last month under Peter Blain, Professor of Environmental Medicine at Newcastle University, and on his advice he decided that a vaccination programme should begin immediately.

The British announcement coincided with similar statements by the United States and Canada.

The anthrax vaccine will be given to the forces personnel in four stages. The fourth jab will be given 32 weeks after the first.

When the latest crisis with Iraq erupted, it was disclosed that Iraq had produced thousands of litres of deadly anthrax spores, some of which had been installed in rocket warheads. Anthrax vaccine was sent to the Gulf when the Government deployed an aircraft carrier to the region and eight Tornado GR1 bombers. However, none of the British forces was vaccinated because the threat of a biological attack was assessed to be very low. Forces personnel are being told that the anthrax vaccine is safe and well tested.

Prior to the Gulf War in 1991, the Ministry of Defence gave forces the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine as a booster to the anthrax jab, despite a warning from the Department of Health that the combination posed risks. The advice was not seen by ministers.

This time, senior MoD officials said yesterday, the pertussis vaccine would not be used, but they denied that this was because of suspicions that the mixture of vaccines might have caused the so-called Gulf War syndrome.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19

BEN CURTIS



George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, being vaccinated against anthrax yesterday

Valentine deal 'led to obsession' with florist

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A FLORIST was driven to despair after a lovesick businessman stalked her for two years, a court was told yesterday. Christine Simpson, 32, was said to have been inundated with unwanted flowers, chocolates, love letters and telephone calls by Robert Dawson, 32.

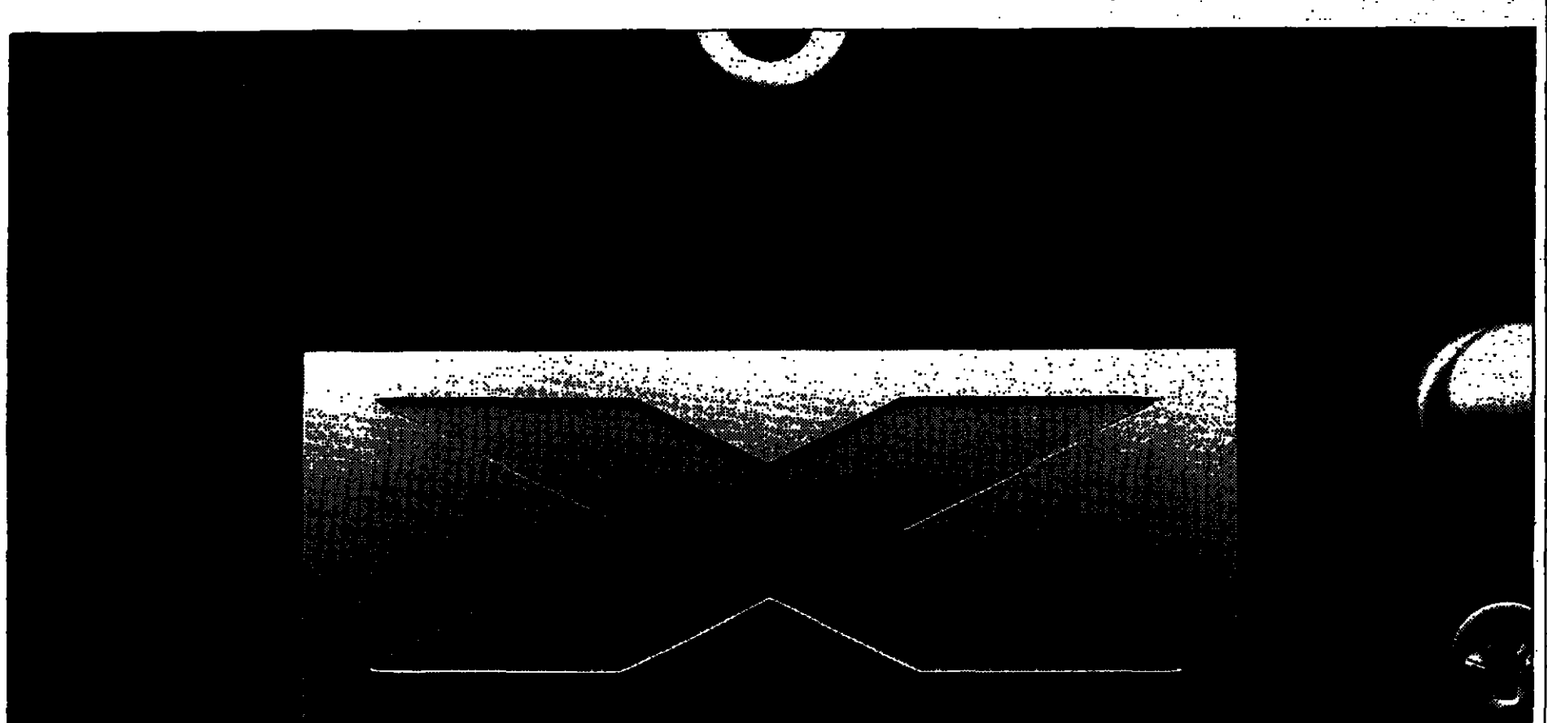
Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, was told that Miss Simpson was so tormented that she sought help from a psychiatrist. She was prescribed beta-blockers by her GP to cope with panic attacks and depression.

Mr Dawson, a property dealer of Clifton, near Manchester, denies inflicting grievous bodily harm causing psychological damage.

The couple met when he bought flowers at her shop. Miss Simpson refused a dinner date but two months later struck a business deal with him over the sale of chocolates and flowers on Valentine's Day.

Stuart Neale, for the defence, suggested that the letters were more affectionate than threatening.

The trial continues.



If you're a Halifax shareholder, our good news will soon be your good news.

I am pleased to report a strong performance for the year ended 31st December 1997, with a record profit before tax and exceptional items for the Group of £1,649m up 15% on the prior year. These results demonstrate another year of progress in a period of unprecedented change and activity associated with our conversion to plc status in June 1997.

Jon Foulds, Chairman

Financial Highlights		
	1997	1996 (Unaudited)
Profit before tax (£m)*	1,649	1,430
Total assets (£m)	131,100	116,075
Earnings per share (p)*	44.2	37.5
Proposed dividend per share (p)	17.5	N/A

*Excluding exceptional items.

After nearly a year as a plc, and our most successful year ever, we will shortly send Halifax shareholders details of this year's financial results and information on our Annual General Meeting. These will arrive before the end of March.

As a shareholder, you can then look forward to receiving your first dividend on 11th May, which will either be paid into the account you have already nominated, or will be sent as a cheque through the post, depending on which option you have chosen. Our dividend payment table tells you just how good your news will be.

Dividend Payment	
The dividend of 17.5p per share is payable to shareholders on the register of 13.03.98. Examples of payments are shown below.	
Shares held	Total dividend
200	£35
400	£70
600	£105
800	£140
1000	£175

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The above financial information has been extracted from the audited Report & Accounts of Halifax plc for the year ended 31st December 1997. The proposed dividend is subject to approval by the shareholders. A copy of the results is available by contacting Halifax Shareholder Services on 0990 522566, Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2RG.

Prisons plan to sterilise needles for drug users

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISONS are planning to introduce a "clean needle" scheme to prevent the spread of hepatitis and HIV among drug-taking inmates.

Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, is considering a pilot scheme in which sterilising equipment would be used on prison wings to cut the risk of spreading disease. Doctors are already permitted to prescribe condoms to inmates, to reduce the danger of infection among them.

The need for cleaning equipment to be made available in jails is highlighted today in a report by Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons. He found that up to 30 prisoners were sharing one syringe and needle at Erlestoke House prison, near Devizes, Wiltshire.

Sir David calls for urgent action by the Prison Service to address the problem. "There is a clear need for the Prison Service to reconsider the availability of cleaning equipment for needles to encourage harm reduction," he writes.

The Chief Inspector says that clear guidance is needed about the issue of sterilising equipment to those at high risk from sharing needles.

The proposal put to ministers would involve issuing a tablet containing disinfectant which prisoners could use to clean equipment. About 18 months ago tablets were withdrawn when it was discovered that there was a safety danger when inmates collected large numbers and burnt them to produce chlorine gas.

In his report on Erlestoke House, Sir David says that substance abuse at the jail was a major problem. Evidence indicated that the use of injectable drugs was increasing.

"Received intelligence showed very considerable sharing of injecting equipment, with up to 30 people sharing one syringe and needle," he says. "This was substantiated by the sizeable numbers of patients found to be infected with hepatitis C."

Sir David outlines the difficulties facing prison officers who attempt to curb heroin abuse in the jail. "Unless prisoners are discovered in the act, this is an extremely difficult issue to tackle. Needles are almost always very carefully hidden, and destroyed when no longer required."

He says that prisoners told his inspection team that drugs were brought into the jail by inmates working outside the prison or were thrown over the fence and collected in the grounds. Prisoners told Sir David that it was only the desperate who had drugs smuggled into them during visits from friends and family.

In 1996, Ann Widdecombe, then Prisons Minister, became the first minister to admit publicly that medical officers in the Prison Service were permitted to dispense condoms.

Frankly, my dear, women do give a damn

BY ROBIN YOUNG

YOUNG women are increasingly irritated by over-familiar terms of address, according to an opinion poll published today.

They object particularly strongly to being called babe, pet, dear, love, duck, ducks or duckie, sweetheart, poppet or darling. Calling women chuck, as in *Coronation Street*, meets equally little approval.

Two thirds of women aged 15 to 24 object to being called dear or duck by tradesmen or workers that they have never met before, the NOP report says.

Women over 65, however, are rather flattered by it and only one in three raises any objection, according to the poll, which surveyed 1,000 men and women. The report found that the style once thought of as informal and friendly is now resented as patronising and sexist.

Eric Morecambe used to call guests "Sunbeam". Charlie Drake referred to everyone as "My darling", and Vera Duckworth, of *Coronation Street*, uses the term chuck. Overall there is an even split between those who object and those who do not, according to the survey carried out for *Bella* magazine.

Yorkshire people were the least likely to take offence, but that has not stopped Leeds council from banning its switchboard operators from calling people love.

Around half those polled object to people such as doctors, receptionists and shop assistants, treating them as if they were old friends. But three in four had no objection when the informality came from a nurse or someone in other caring professions.

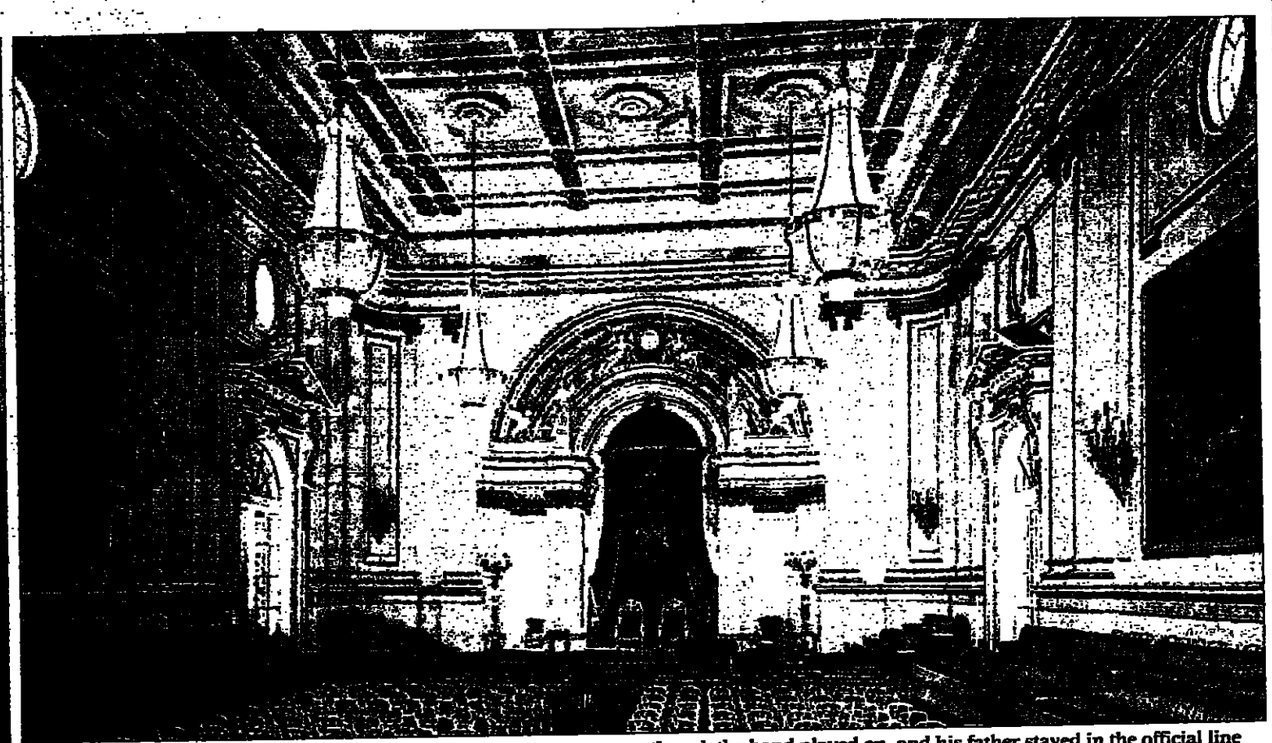
Despite that, some hospitals, including Kings Mill Hospital in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, have banned all staff from calling patients pet or dear.

Jackie Highe, *Bella*'s editor-in-chief, said: "I come from Yorkshire, where we all call each other duck or dear or some other name, but the problem is not what is said but who says it and in what tone and when. If a tradesman you have never met calls you love, it can be patronising."

Height of good manners at the Palace

Kathryn Knight on how falling masonry was not enough to disrupt a royal occasion





The injured Nick Howell, and the ballroom where his family's big day went "a little bit wrong". The investiture ceremony continued, the band played on, and his father stayed in the official line

THE ceiling may have fallen in at yesterday's Buckingham Palace investiture, but that was clearly no reason for lowering standards. Even the victim's father kept strictly to his place in the official line, out of respect for the Queen and because he did not want to cause a scene.

"I didn't move away from the ceremony at first because I thought it was good British manners to keep my place," said Keith Howell, who was receiving the insignia of his OBE. He spotted his son, Nick, fall in a shower of plaster. "I saw him being taken to the first aid room so, when I could, I just made a little bow and moved away."

Later, Nick Howell showed equal resolve as he emerged from his hospital cubicle with nine stitches, two cuts in his head and a rueful smile, and said it was all a "good tale to tell down the pub". Mr Howell, 28, whose bloodied shirt and suit still bore heavy dustings of plaster, said he bore no grudge despite having to miss his family's celebratory lunch in Covent Garden.

"My dad had just got his award and I was reading the programme and the next thing I knew something hit me on my head and leg," he recalled. "The next thing, there was lots of blood around. It was a huge shock. I just knew something had hurt my head. "It was my first time at the Palace. Everyone was really good. It was a big day out and it has gone a little bit wrong."

His father, 58, heard a bang as he was in a line of recipients returning to their seats: "I glanced around and I saw the person at the end of the row of seats had fallen over. I knew it was Nick. I thought, 'Oh goodness, he's gone and fallen asleep.' When I saw the bits of plaster, I realised what had happened."

The victim's brother Christopher, 26, a policeman said: "There was an almighty crash and there was plaster and dust all over me.

"I looked to my side and my brother was slumped over. It looked far worse at first because there was blood everywhere and you couldn't see where it was coming from. I asked if he was all right and he just sort of mumbled."

The injured man, who works for a chemical company, was helped from the ballroom and treated by Palace staff before an ambulance was called. The ceremony continued, and the band played on.

The family, from Surbiton, southwest London, had planned to pose for pictures in the Buckingham Palace gardens to commemorate their special day, but instead Mr Howell found himself in the back of an ambulance racing to St Thomas' hospital.

His mother, Margaret, 57, said the family had thought they had plum seats in the audience because they were slightly raised: "We had a great view and I thought we'd got the best seats. If I'd known, we wouldn't have sat there."

DUST OF JUSTICE

A freak gust of wind dislodged debris from the ceiling of Court 3 at the Royal Courts of Justice, covering the Lord Chief Justice and lawyers in sooty dust. Lord Bingham of Cornhill asked the court clerk: "Could you inform the powers-that-be that the ceiling is falling apart."

Ceiling was surveyed three weeks ago

No fault was found, but an earlier report warned of injuries, writes **Alan Hamilton**

SPENDING on maintenance at Buckingham Palace is not only failing to keep pace with inflation, it is actually falling, according to the Royal Household's annual accounts.

Last year, the Household spent £5.1 million on the fabric of the Palace, compared with £5.4 million in 1996. Officials insist, however, that the shortfall is a result of more efficient management and that essential work to keep the building sound and safe is not skimped.

Since the Royal Household took over the running of the occupied royal palaces from the Government's now-defunct Property Services Agency in 1991, it has ordered a major structural survey every five years. The last was in 1992 and another is in progress at present; the ballroom ceiling was inspected as part of the survey only three weeks ago and nothing was found to be unduly amiss. "There were hairline cracks, but nothing to suggest a structural fault," the Palace said yesterday.

The ceiling was doubly inspected in 1992, when it was redecorated as part of a separate programme as well as being inspected by the building surveyors. They apparently found nothing wrong. However, in 1990, the PSA produced a 1,000-page confidential report which effectively criticised its own past stewardship of the Palace and which portrayed the Queen's official London residence as being in a particularly sorry state.

It listed deteriorating roofs, cracked stonework and rotting windows and, in one particularly apposite paragraph, noted: "Pieces of stucco are falling off. Where the defective surfaces are over courtyards, staterooms and galleries, there is some risk of injury to persons and works of art." The ballroom ceiling was not specifically mentioned. It recommended a programme of remedial works spread over 25 years, with £7.7 million being spent in the first ten.

The report died with the end of the PSA's responsibility for the royal palaces in 1991, and although the Royal Household has spent substantially more than the recommended £7.7 million since then, it has not necessarily followed the report's recommendations. "A lot of the things they said needed doing were unnecessary, so they have not gone ahead," a Palace official admitted recently.

In evidence to the National Audit Office in 1984, the Royal Household criticised the 1990 report as being of "limited usefulness", but insisted that any backlog of essential maintenance identified by the report had been carried out.

Yesterday, the Palace insisted that a reduction in the annual maintenance budget did not mean that corners were being cut. "The fall in the ballroom was a great surprise. It is the first time any such thing has happened at an official event. Because costs have gone down it does not mean less maintenance -- the savings have largely been in management," a spokeswoman said.

Buckingham Palace has its origins in a town house built for the Duke of Buckingham in 1702, but little of the original remains. Most of today's Palace dates from a major reconstruction in the 1820s by John Nash for George IV. The ballroom is a further remodelling by Prince Albert for Queen Victoria in 1856.



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BOSCH

Clergy alerted to risk of dealing with strangers

Assaults by casual callers threaten the notion of open house, writes **Peter Foster**

THE tradition that parish priests are available to all the people all the time is an impossible and outdated notion, the Church of England said yesterday.

The admission follows growing concern over the safety of priests who frequently make late-night visits and deal with unknown casual callers and the mentally ill. A reminder of the dangers faced by clergy came last weekend when two masked gunmen attacked a priest in Lincoln on Saturday night. They fired an air rifle through the letterbox of St Botolph's vicarage and hit the Rev John Hayes in the face with a crowbar.

Yesterday the Church initiated a nationwide discussion on security, acting on a request from the House of Bishops after a spate of attacks in the summer of 1996. In the foreword to the 27-page discussion paper, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York say they are "deeply concerned about attacks on the clergy and their families", and urge church council members across the country to consider security matters.

The paper, which was prepared by a group of clerics, discovered a "remarkable naivety" among some clergy when it came to taking sensible precautions to avoid potentially dangerous or violent situations. The authors used the example of the life of Christ to justify their claims that modern priests should not have to be available to their congregations all the time: "This might have been a meaningful vision in an 18th-century small village, but, in a town or city and in the late 20th century, it can be seriously dangerous."

Modern clergy, they concluded, needed many of the same rights that most workers took for granted, such as a weekly day off, proper holidays and time to relax with family and friends, if they were to avoid stress-related illnesses.

As well as recommendations on security at vicarages, the paper advises on the correct response to strangers who knock on vicarage doors asking for money or food. Priests should consider whether to offer pastoral care or refer callers to other agencies, such as social services, Citizens Advice Bureaux, Relate or Alcoholics Anonymous.

If priests decide to offer more than information, they are advised to keep food from harvest festival services to hand out, use vouchers of up to £4 for a local café, or to keep a stock of canned drinks to "save having to make tea at an inconvenient time".

The authors admit that some of their suggestions may appear "stark and uncompromising", but say this is a reflection of the modern society in which we live: "Some with years of experience say that the type of caller has changed so much that clergy should not attempt to get involved, except on the level of giving information or making referrals."

A survey of 21 paid parochial clergy in an East London deanery, which was highlighted in the discussion paper, showed that 80 per cent had had their homes broken into and 70 per cent had been assaulted or threatened. Only one had any formal training on security, and 95 per cent said no one was aware of where they were or who they were visiting during their day-to-day work.



Gullit access claim

Gullit and wife in court over child access

RUUD GULLIT, the former Chelsea manager, and his estranged wife appeared in the High Court yesterday at a hearing to decide on access to their two children, aged six and four, who live with their mother in Italy.

The Dutch football star and Christina Pensa, 32, a model, sat feet from each other at the closed hearing in London. Mr Gullit, 34, who has been married twice, now lives with Estelle Cruyff, 21, niece of the former footballer Johan Cruyff. They have a baby son.

Mr Gullit is reported to be paying Ms Pensa maintenance of £4,000 a month. His first marriage, to Yvonne De Vries, with whom he has two daughters, collapsed in 1990.

Sport, pages 41, 44

JAMES HORTON



Christina Pensa, Ruud Gullit's estranged wife, arriving at the High Court yesterday

Painful patients scare the dentists

BY IAN MURRAY

DENTISTS are becoming frightened of their patients. Three-quarters of surgery staff in a survey had been verbally abused over the past three years, and more than 5 per cent had been physically attacked.

The dentist is twice as likely to be punched or threatened with violence as the rest of the staff, who usually have to put up with more verbal abuse, according to the British Dental Association.

The association is campaigning for a legal change to enable NHS dentists to remove abusive patients from their lists immediately. While a GP can ban unwanted patients in a week, dentists have to wait three months. During that time, they are required to carry on treating them.

More than 300 practices took part in the association's survey. In one case, a male patient grabbed a woman community dentist from behind as she walked through the grounds of the hospital where she worked. She managed to escape when he loosened his grip as she started screaming for help.

At present, 27 per cent of dentists are women, but, as half of all dental students are now female, the proportion within the profession is rising all the time and the association says that they can be especially vulnerable.

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Long walks help to ward off diabetes

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE who regularly go on long walks are less likely to develop diabetes and heart diseases. Researchers have discovered that the exercise helps the body to make better use of naturally produced insulin.

The hormone's function is to promote the absorption of glucose in the liver, where it is stored for use as energy. Diabetes sufferers have too little insulin, which means that glucose builds up in the blood and is not available as energy.

The research, based on a study of 1,467 people aged from 40 to 69, including some with mild diabetes, found that exercise stimulated the pancreas to produce insulin and helped the body to use the hormone more effectively.

Writing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the researchers from University of South Carolina say that the findings suggest that "the potential for prevention of related chronic diseases, including non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease, may be considerable".

Elizabeth Mayer-Davies, who led the research, says that the evidence suggests that treatments could be designed to include walking, which is inexpensive and accessible to large numbers of people.

A spokesman for the British Diabetic Association said: "We would advise anyone with diabetes to adopt a healthy lifestyle because it has been shown to be beneficial as far as their condition is concerned. This would include both a healthy diet and adequate exercise."

Pet quarantine laws 'increase rabies danger'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S strict quarantine laws, far from providing protection against rabies, are increasing the likelihood of the disease entering the country, a new pressure group says.

The current regulations, which require all imported dogs and cats to be held in solitary confinement for six months, encourages the smuggling of pets into Britain, according to the Quarantine Reform Campaign.

The campaign group is made up of the RSPCA, Vets for Change, a reform faction within the British Veterinary Association, and Passports for Pets, representing people who want to be able to travel abroad with their animals.

John Rolls, of the RSPCA, said: "There are good reasons to believe that quarantine alone does not provide an effective safeguard against rabies and the report we are releasing today highlights our many concerns about the existing system."

The campaign's report, *The Case for Change*, recommends that quarantine should be replaced by a system based on vaccination, blood tests (to make sure the vaccine has taken) and microchip identification for pets imported from the EU and other countries classified as rabies-free.

This is one of the options being looked at by an independent panel of scientific experts set up last autumn by Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture. It is expected to report to the Government before the summer.

Mr Rolls, the RSPCA's director of communications, said the expense of quarantine (around £800 for a cat and £1,500 for a dog), and the desire to avoid condemning their pets to six months' imprisonment, was a powerful incentive for people to smuggle animals into Britain. "In the past seven years there have been 769 cases of animals being smuggled into this country," he said. "Those are just the cases we know about. The real figure is probably much higher."

According to the report, there has not been a single, scientifically proven case of rabies in any of the 200,000 cats and dogs imported into the Britain since 1970, when vaccination of animals entering quarantine was made compulsory.

Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, a past president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, said that the fox strain of rabies still found in some parts of the EU did not pose a significant risk. "The transmissibility of fox rabies to dogs is very low, and the chance of fox rabies being introduced into this country by a dog is virtually zero."



Lord Soulsby: fox rabies not a significant risk

Prisoner escapes as family storms mother's hospital

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A VIOLENT prisoner was on the run yesterday after 30 relatives overpowered guards while he visited his dying mother in hospital.

Richard McCarthy, 30, escaped shortly after arriving at the hospital on a compassionate visit. Two prison officers accompanying him were surrounded in a corridor outside his mother's ward at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol.

They were intimidated into removing a handcuff linking the prisoner to one of the officers. They tried to chase McCarthy as he fled, but were constantly surrounded by his family and friends.

It is understood that up to 200 friends and associates of McCarthy were in the vicinity of the hospital. He fled from the grounds and has not been seen since the escape last month. A Prison Service spokesman said: "This was a very serious incident.

"The reports were that these people virtually overran the hospital. The officers had him handcuffed, but they were forced by a large number of people also visiting the lady in hospital to remove the cuffs. The officers were then obstructed while he made good his escape."

McCarthy, a traveller, was serving three years for a violent attack in a public house in Bristol. The officers had brought him from Wayland jail in Norfolk after he had made a special request to see his mother. McCarthy had been handcuffed to an officer throughout the journey.

His mother died the day after his visit on February 20 and the funeral service took place in Essex. The Prison Service spokesman said: "Prisoners can apply to visit dying relatives in hospital, provided they are close blood relatives. They can either be released unescorted or under escort."

Avon and Somerset police said that they had received no confirmed sighting of McCarthy, who tended to move around the country, living with other travellers on caravan sites.

A spokesman said: "We are making inquiries into the nature of this escape." The force was investigating whether anyone should be charged in connection with the incident. Anyone found guilty of helping a prisoner to escape faces a maximum of ten years in jail.

African hijackers shot couple in the back

Helen Johnstone on the inquest of a former British Army officer and his wife murdered in Mozambique

A FORMER British Army officer and his wife were made to lie on the ground face down before being shot by three former soldiers who ambushed their car as they drove through Mozambique, an inquest was told yesterday.

Andrew McGowan, 35, and Caroline, 30, had been on their way home to Malawi from Zimbabwe when the hijackers, dressed in military uniform and armed with AK47 rifles, struck. Detective work by a team from Surrey Police led to three suspected former guerrillas being jailed for the double murder.

The three British detectives flew to Mozambique two months after the murder, after the Ministry of the Interior, with the encouragement of the Foreign Office and the British High Commission in Maputo, Mozambique's capital, asked for assistance.

Detective Superintendent Brian Woodfield, who spent two weeks in the country, described how his team discovered that a deserter from Mozambique's national army and two other ex-soldiers had camped out for up to two days beside a dirt track road waiting for a suitable vehicle. When Mr McGowan and his wife, a teacher at the Bishop Mackenzie school in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe, arrived, they forced them to stop. The couple were then taken a few metres into the bush and shot.

Mr Woodfield said Mrs McGowan was shot twice and her husband once.

Richard Shepherd, a Home Office pathologist, told the inquest in Woking, Surrey, that Mr McGowan, a captain with the Royal Pusiliers before becoming a business consultant, had been shot in a buttock and would have died quickly. Mrs McGowan was shot in the back and would also have died immediately. He said: "It is most likely at the time they were shot that they were both lying down."

The robbers sped off in the couple's Toyota four-wheel-drive towards Tete, but crashed avoiding a bus. They then fled on foot. The couple's bodies were discovered four days later by a search party led by Mr McGowan's older brother, Ewen, who also worked as a business consultant in Malawi.

Mr Woodfield said the investigation was conducted 196 kilometres from the murder scene and without the benefit of forensic science facilities available in Britain. However, officers were able to find vital evidence, previously missed, including two cartridges almost certainly fired from the hijackers' weapons.

Michael Burgess, the coroner, was told that the previous day the couple had dropped off Mrs McGowan's parents, Edmund and Anne Smitheram, at Harare airport, Zimbabwe, to return to their home in Ipswich after a two-week visit. Recording verdicts of unlawful killing, he praised the part played by Surrey Police. "I am sure without their assistance there would not have been the successful criminal proceedings".

Ernesto Ferro — also known as Paulino Maconde — Joaquim Quembo and Paulino Nguasa were jailed for 24 years last October for the killing on April 13 last year. The men escaped from prison eight weeks after being sentenced, but have been recaptured. After the hearing, Mr Smitheram, deputy headmaster at the Royal Hospital School in Ipswich, said: "Nothing will bring Andrew and Caroline back, but we were most anxious that the people who committed the crime got the maximum sentence, and we are glad they got it." He added: "They were both very public-spirited. Caroline was greatly loved by her pupils and her colleagues, and Andrew was a super son-in-law."

Mr McGowan's parents, Ian and Phylis, from Fleet, Hampshire, also attended the inquest. Mrs McGowan said of the moment the men were jailed: "Looking at those three was dreadful."

☐ Kenyan police claim to have made a breakthrough in the search for the murderers of Roy Chivers, a retired Scotland Yard detective, who was stabbed as he walked with his wife in a game sanctuary last month. A spokesman said: "We are holding two men for the murder. We have recovered the murder weapon and have incriminating evidence."



Andrew and Caroline McGowan were ambushed as they drove home to Malawi

'Gagged' woman inspector reinstated

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE inspector who was suspended by senior officers to stop her making allegations of sexual discrimination was reinstated yesterday and cleared of all disciplinary charges.

Cydena Fleming was suspended 2½ years ago by Lincolnshire Police after she secretly taped colleagues at Gainsborough police station to prove that she was being harassed.

Last month, an industrial tribunal found the force guilty of victimisation over the allegations contained in a 96-page report and ruled the force should drop them.

The case has already cost the force £350,000 and Mrs Fleming, 40, is negotiating compensation that is expected to be substantial. She has been reinstated on attachment to the police headquarters; her future with the force is to be discussed. Yesterday she was officially on leave.

The decision to reinstate her was taken by Phil Davies, the Deputy Chief Constable.

Auditors want reform of police surgeon system

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors can earn an extra £60,000 a year working as police surgeons in a system condemned by the Audit Commission yesterday as Victorian and badly in need of reform.

The commission found that the 1,200 doctors who did the work were each paid an annual retainer of £2,490 for a full surgeon and £490 for deputies. They also earn between £21.50 and £66 for every call-out, depending on the time of day and the work. In central Birmingham police surgeons are called out 400 times a month and earn an average of more than £5,000 a month. Urging a review by the Home Office and police, the commission found that the picture portrayed on BBC1's *Dangerfield* series, of a police surgeon solving crimes by using his forensic science skills, was untrue. The real Dr Dangerfields spend much of their time dealing with drunks and drug addicts.



Dangerfield: false image of surgeons

The commission suggests that forces could use detoxification units for the increasing numbers of drunks and drug abusers with whom they have to deal. Health trusts or group practices could provide a better medical service in police stations. Nurses and paramedics could deal with mundane tasks and work permanently in main stations during busy periods. Observation cells could be provided to house difficult or vulnerable prisoners.

Issuing the report, Andrew Foster, Controller of the Audit Commission, said the aim was get a better service and not necessarily to cut the £20 million annual bill. "This is a Victorian system which must be updated for the 21st century," he said. Kate Flannery, author of the report, *The Doctor's Bill*, said it had "the feel of a backdoor service", often operated by gentlemen's agreements.

The appointment of doctors to work for police forces began in early Victorian times when they checked the health of recruits. Later they became responsible for the health of officers and their families. Now they are on call on rotas to carry out a range of jobs in stations from taking blood and urine tests to checking the mental state of a prisoner. Most examinations involve assessing whether someone is fit to be held or questioned. The commission found that the appointment of police surgeons was usually badly organised. They often worked with inadequate facilities and their performance was never checked.

Coverage was also patchy. In one case police needed an urgent examination of a rape victim and had to contact 12 surgeons before one arrived.

The commission report found that the work of the doctors was becoming more demanding as they dealt with areas such as the results of police use of CS sprays and taking DNA samples. Yet only 10 per cent of the surgeons had taken an extra forensic medicine qualification.

Journalist is told to reveal source

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A NEWSPAPER executive and his wife were yesterday ordered to disclose the source of stolen pre-publication copies of a biography of the Duchess of York.

In the High Court, Ian Monk, former deputy editor of the *Daily Express*, and his wife Anita were ordered to pay £125 damages each and costs estimated at £60,000 to Michael O'Mara, publisher of Allan Starkie's 1996 biography *Fergie — Her Secret Life*. Mr Monk, 45, is likely to appeal, claiming his right to protect the newspaper's sources.

Mr O'Mara sold serialisation rights to the *Daily Mail* for £101,000 in October 1996. On November 2, the *Daily Express* ran articles allegedly based on extracts. The day before, Mrs Monk, 52, was arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods, after trying to sell an unauthorised copy to *The Sun* for £4,000. She was not charged. Mrs Monk and her husband insist he was not involved with her attempts to sell the copy.

Mr O'Mara issued writs against the Monks and Express Newspapers. Yesterday, Mr Justice Neuberger rejected Mr Monk's public-interest defence and said it was in the interests of justice for the commercial reputations of the publisher and printer to be protected.

The Monks risk fines and prison for contempt if they refuse to list their sources. It is understood their costs and damages are being paid by Express Newspapers. Mr Monk now works for *The Sun*.

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Think carefully before you turn the page. You may believe that a heart attack is the sort of thing that happens to someone else. But if you do, bear in mind that last year Norwich Union Healthcare paid out over £20 million in income protection claims. That's rather a lot of someone elses. For more information, talk to us now on 0800 400 123.

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Children find violent cartoons a turn-off

By Carol Midgley
Media Correspondent







The report says children are not overly keen on cartoons. When they watch, they prefer those such as *Scooby Doo*, left, *The Simpsons*, centre, and *The Flintstones*

CHILDREN are switching off modern action cartoons in favour of the old-fashioned classics watched by their parents. According to research by the Independent Television Commission, they enjoy 1970s favourites such as *Scooby Doo* and *Wacky Races* far more than the latest offerings influenced by computer and video games.

Parents' fears that their children are becoming addicted to violent, all-action animations such as *Street Sharks*, *X-Men* and *Men in Black* are groundless, says a report by the commission. When asked to name their favourite programmes, virtually none mentioned a cartoon. Most preferred factual programmes and drama; if they watched cartoons they wanted the slapstick of *Tom and Jerry*. The adventures of the cowardly dog Scooby Doo and the dysfunctional Simpsons were also great favourites.

"Darker" animations, with more complex and sinister storylines, succeeded only in boring children rather than frightening them. Only a narrow band of boys aged five to seven enjoyed watching the action cartoons.

Children categorised such cartoons (*Reboot*, *Batman and Robin*) as "bad scary", while "good scary" animations included *Hey Arnold!*, *The Flintstones* and *Rugrats* — programmes they went out of their way to watch.

"This research shows children can be as discerning in their viewing as adults," Peter Rogers, chief executive of the commission, said. "Television is one of their main sources of entertainment and they want good choice, not just cartoons. Programme makers ignore this at their peril."

Sixty children aged between five and nine, and their mothers, were surveyed for the study. Sue Chambers, one of the authors, said some of the mothers were shocked by the aggressive programmes their children were watching. However, even though some of the children found them disturbing, they realised they were simply cartoons.

"Cartoons are an important part of children's viewing because they are short and easy to dip in and out of," she said. "They're more relaxing than challenging to watch, but they are not the only part of their TV diet. Factual and drama programmes such as *Art Attack* and *The Demon Headmaster* are more popular than any cartoons."

The latest viewing figures show that there are few cartoons in the children's top ten. ITV's *Art Attack* was the most watched, followed by *Fudge* and *Wild House*. None of these is a cartoon.

"Girls in general and older boys do not particularly like action cartoons," the report says. "Younger girls (5-6) find some of the imagery 'scary', with ugly characters and monsters, and think they are noisy with loud music and too much fighting. Older boys and girls (8-9) sometimes feel uncomfortable or uneasy if the characters are too human or if the storylines are to do with children being in danger."

The commission published a further report yesterday that suggested young children can be disturbed by "morphing" images used in advertising. The computer technique, which transforms people into creatures, has been used in adverts by Peugeot and Irn Bru.

Frank Willis, the commission's director of advertising and sponsorship, said advertisers had been warned about using the technique. His comments were part of a report into the influence of advertising on children.

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BT

Internet 'lock' will screen out pornography

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A CINEMA-STYLE classification is being drawn up for the Internet to help parents to filter out violent, pornographic and other unsavoury material. The scheme, backed by the Government, has been taken up by the European Commission and ratings bodies in the United States and Australia. It is expected to be available to parents across the globe in two years.

Experts say it will be a more sophisticated version of the U to 18 ratings system at cinemas. Mark Stephens, chairman of the Internet Watch Foundation's policy board, which drew up the proposals, said yesterday that people or organisations publishing information over the Internet would attach electronic tags indicating the level of violence and sexual imagery the text and pictures contained.

Parents would be able to obtain free filtering software for home PCs and set limits to the information that could be downloaded when a child was logged on. The software would check the electronic tag and either reject or accept the information being offered during a search of the Internet.

Peddlers of hardcore computer pornography are unlikely to attach electronic tags. But Mr Stephens said parents would also be able to set the filter system to reject "tagless" Internet pages.

He said the sophistication of screening or filtering software was such that violent information could be rejected without *Macbeth*, for example, being barred. In addition, adults could tailor the system to individual cultural or religious constraints.

Details of the international ratings system were disclosed by Barbara Roche, a junior Industry Minister, at a meeting in London yesterday to review the Internet Watch Foundation's first annual report.

The foundation was set up in 1996 by the British Internet industry, at the request of Government and the police, to combat illegal material, especially child pornography. It operates a hotline and encourages the public to report any potentially illegal material seen on the Net. Offensive material is then removed by Internet service providers and cases reported to the police and overseas authorities if the material originated outside Britain.

The foundation's report shows that up to 95 per cent of the 2,000 items removed as a result of its action contained images of children engaged in sexual activity. But the foundation acknowledges that the amount it catches is a tiny proportion of the total.

John Carr, of NCH Action for Children, a charity involved in the ratings proposals, said that existing screening services such as NetNanny were too complicated for many parents. "We are hoping the foundation will come up with a simpler and more user-friendly system."

Zoo book is a real stinker

By Paul Wilkinson



Rubbing the pictures releases strong odours

A NEW children's book will convey the atmosphere of a zoo more pungently than a coventional picture story: smells will be included.

Rubbing the illustrations in *Pooey Zoo* will release four impregnated smells: the elephant house, the canteen, feeding time with the seals and the distinctive odour of the main character, Jack, described by the printers as "a rather sweaty smell".

The 16-page book is one of two by Lynne Gibbs, to be published in June, that will include long-lasting, strong smells made possible by new techniques. Unlike earlier "scratch and sniff" books, children will be able to rub a whole page and sniff the odours time after time.

In *Stinky School*, the teacher has a pleasant perfume and children can experience the fragrance of the gardens. Less attractive are the aromas of the gym and the dining hall.

Paul Ingham, account director of Stanley Press at Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, tried samples on his eight-year-old son, Peter. "I tested everything on him, from horrible smells like sweaty feet and mothballs, through to lavender. He thought the smelly feet was horrible and really turned his nose up at that. I was only using a blank piece of paper, but if it had been a book I'm sure he would have picked it up and read it."

Mr Ingham believes the idea, which is aimed at four to seven-year-olds, will be of educational benefit. "It makes them pay attention more."

The process involves a secret ink. The firm has adapted its printing machines and goes into production next month with a test run of 10,000 copies of each book.

To ensure the printers are not overcome by the process, an extractor fan will be used in the works — "though we may have to issue them with gas masks", Mr Ingham said. World International, the books' Cheshire-based publisher, said: "They are the most obnoxious smells you can imagine."

Children's books, page 36

Irvine defends his 'noble cause'

Lord Chancellor tells MPs he has nothing to apologise for and says £60,000 wallpaper will outlast DIY store goods, writes James Landale

A DEFIANT Lord Chancellor yesterday insisted that the £650,000 refurbishment of his official residence was a "noble cause" and dismissed any criticism as a "storm in a teacup".

Lord Irvine of Lairg told MPs that he had nothing to apologise for and said the controversy surrounding the project had been blown "grossly out of proportion". He recognised that the cost might seem high but he insisted that future generations would be grateful.

In a bravura performance, Lord Irvine told the Public Administration Committee that he wanted to take "on the chin" criticism of the £60,000 being spent on Pugin-style wallpaper. The material, he said, had to last for 60 or 70 years: "We are not talking about something down at the DIY store that might collapse after a year or so."

It was the first time the Lord Chancellor was subjected to public scrutiny since *The Times* revealed the extent of his involvement in the refurbishment plans before they had been agreed by peers.

Tory MPs accused him of trying to conceal details about the refurbishment. David Ruffley, MP for Bury St Edmunds, said the leaked letter from Lord Irvine to Black Rod, the most senior official in the House of Lords, showed that earlier press releases had been "misleading and economical with the truth".

Lord Irvine insisted: "While I understand that £650,000 appears to be a large sum of money, I believe it is in a noble cause and future generations will be grateful."

He added: "I have never ever attempted, nor would I dream of attempting, to conceal that this refurbishment has my strong support and approval. The residence is part of the Palace of Westminster.

"This Palace is the mother of parliaments. It is a Grade I listed building. It is clearly right that when it is refurbished, it should be refurbished to the highest possible standard. It is part of our national heritage."

He insisted that the decision to go ahead with the refurbishment was made by the House of Lords Administration and Work Sub-Committee. "It was their decision and their decision alone but I have never concealed that I thoroughly approve of what they have done. People will regard this as a storm in a teacup."

Andrew Tyrie, Tory MP for Chichester, asked if Lord Irvine felt like Norman Lamont, the former Tory Chancellor, who once said: "Je ne regrette rien".

Lord Irvine replied: "I certainly do not think any apologies are due. On the contrary, I tend to side with the commentators who have said three cheers for Parliament."

Lord Irvine quoted Baroness Thatcher who wrote in a foreword to a book in 1986 that she had been privileged to continue the conservation of the Palace of Westminster. "It is right that if you are refurbishing part of the Palace of Westminster, it should be done to the very highest and historically authentic standard. It is right in principle."

Lord Irvine strongly defended the decision to hang publicly-owned paintings in the residence. All the curators of the national galleries were strongly in support of the move. "I see it as an opportunity for public benefit in procuring works of art which are languishing in cellars, putting them on walls where they could be seen regularly."

After being pressed about the confidentiality clauses which contractors had been asked to sign, Lord Irvine said: "These contracts are not let by my department. They are House contracts."

He also expressed concern that some newspapers had printed "very accurate" plans of the residence. "I hope that you will the first to deprecate that on the grounds of security considerations. I have no objection to the Official Secrets Act applying to these contracts."

Mr Tyrie asked if it had ever occurred to him that the letter about the refurbishment might be politically embarrassing. Lord Irvine said it was right for the committee to have all the information before them. "There was nothing but candour and the fullest detail in that letter."

Mr Tyrie asked if Lord Irvine's officials had advised him about the letter and even written it for him. Lord Irvine replied: "No, not at all. I wrote every word myself. I take full responsibility for it. It was a subject in which I was very interested.

"But I have never concealed that I thoroughly approve of what they have done."

Mike Hancock, Liberal Democrat MP for Portsmouth South, later joked: "I would like to ask you what to avoid in B&Q [the DIY chain]". Looking confused, Lord Irvine either misheard or was unaware of B&Q and took advice from his officials before remarking: "That was very entertaining."

Letters, page 19



Taking it on the chin: Lord Irvine justifying the £650,000 refurbishment of his apartments to MPs yesterday

Wallpaper makers hit back at cheap 'insult'

WALLPAPER manufacturers demanded an apology last night after Lord Irvine "insulted" their products.

The Lord Chancellor's suggestion that ordinary wallpaper — unlike the very costly reproduction Pugin stuff chosen for his residence — might fall down almost as soon as it was up drew an outraged response from the wallpaper industry.

The Wallfashion Bureau, representing the industry, said Lord Irvine's remarks were "frankly an insult". Terry Langstroth, the bureau chairman, said it was "outrageous" to suggest that the millions of rolls of paper sold through DIY stores up and down the country were not up to the job and would collapse after a year or so.

"We would be happy to hang our commercially produced paper alongside his considerably more expensive hand-printed product any day," he said.

"These remarks by the Lord Chancellor would suggest he is completely out of touch. As an industry we produce top quality products which can cost a fraction of the price he is paying.

"Our members produce papers which can cost under £10 a roll and would last just as long — if not longer than his. We strongly recommend he tries them."

Political naivety leaves both men exposed to gibes

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

DERRY IRVINE and Geoffrey Robinson are both regarded by the Prime Minister as excellent ministers, but neither is really a politician — at least not in the conventional sense of being committed career politicians. That is why they are so vulnerable to the type of baiting and gibes they received yesterday from some Tory "bovver boys".

Mr Robinson may have been an MP for more than two decades, but for much of the time he has been better known in the business world than at Westminster. To many Labour MPs, he has always been an outsider. Similarly, while Lord Irvine has been a close friend of both the late John Smith and of Tony Blair, his role has been that of *consigliere* rather than political player in his own right.

But it is precisely their experience in business and the law respectively that is of most value now. Not only Gordon Brown but also the Blair inner circle praise Mr Robinson's comments and suggestions on issues affecting business, such as the private finance initiative. His role is similar to that of Harold Lever as financial adviser in the Labour Governments of the 1970s.

Lord Irvine has been a highly successful barrister with an impressive ability to cut through legal tangles, though not always an equal ability to suffer lesser intellects. He has already made a big contribution in coordinating the Government's constitutional reform programme, chairing a series of Cabinet committees.

Their main virtues are behind the scenes, as advisers and problem solvers. Mr Robinson has never been an assured performer, while Lord Irvine has often appeared touchy in public, and thin-skinned about criticism. One cannot imagine most members of the Cabinet, or Shadow Cabinet, getting into the sort of tangles that Mr Robinson and Lord Irvine have. They would not have had the extensive business interests of Mr Robinson and they would have spotted the potential problems in the proposals for the expensive, and justified, redecoration of the Lord Chancellor's apartments.

The main charges against both have little really to do with their ministerial roles. Whether or not Mr Robinson failed to declare some of his many directorships will be determined by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, but there is no evidence that these interests had the slightest impact upon his duties as an MP. This is very different from the allegations about non-declaration made against other MPs which directly concerned their parliamentary activities. The most valid criticism of Mr Robinson — made in the Commons yesterday by Peter Lilley in a powerful speech — were about his ill thought-out proposals for individual savings accounts.

Nonetheless, the recent controversies have damaged both. Mr Robinson easily brushed aside the Tory attack last night but it will still be hard for him, as a Treasury minister, to handle tax changes in the Finance Bill. He should, and probably will, be moved to the Department of Trade and Industry in an early reshuffle. Lord Irvine needs to remember that it is inadvisable for unelected ministers to throw their weight around or to compare themselves, even if jokingly, with Cardinal Wolsey. His considerable influence depends on his relationship with the Prime Minister and is better exercised in private. Yet both are likely to survive longer as ministers, and deserve to do so, than many who are now enjoying their discomfiture.

PETER RIDDELL

Robinson refuses to rise to Tory bait over tax

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the Paymaster General, brushed off a Commons attack on his financial affairs yesterday as MPs debated the Government's plans for individual savings accounts (Isas).

Mr Robinson faced a barrage of insults from the Conservatives, including an accusation that he was a tax dodger. The charge was later withdrawn by Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, on the grounds that it was unparliamentary.

However, Mr Robinson had to suffer a series of jibes about his status as the beneficiary of a £12 million Guernsey-based trust fund and his ownership of properties including a villa in Tuscany that has been used by the Prime Minister for family holidays. Winding up the debate for the Government, Mr Robinson dismissed the Opposition's charges as "petty and irrelevant".

Mr Lilley made his "tax dodger" comment as he opened the Tory-initiated discussion of the Government's plans to replace personal equity plans (Peps) and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) with Isas. There will be a £50,000 limit on tax-free savings, which was announced by Mr Robinson when details of the scheme were unveiled last year.

Mr Lilley told MPs: "It was an insult to put the tax-dodger general, with £12 million in an offshore tax haven, in charge of taking away tax relief from middle Britain." He said that Labour had broken pre-election pledges not to penalise people with Peps or Tessas.

"It was the Prime Minister — 'trust me Tony' himself — who said 'we want to extend the scope of Peps and Tessas' and said the idea that the Labour Party is going to take action against them is completely absurd."

He quoted from a letter written by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Alistair Darling, to the magazine *Investor's Chronicle*, before Labour came to power last May. Mr Darling, who had given an interview to the magazine, wrote after it appeared: "The assertion in the article that Labour is examining proposals to abolish Peps and Tessas is not true."

He ridiculed the Government's claim that it would encourage millions of people to save for the first time. "The truth is that they are a phantom army. They had to be invented to pretend that tax relief was going to be spread more widely."

Michael Fallon, the Conservatives' front bench Treasury spokesman, said that Mr Robinson had described people with more than £50,000 in a pep as "people who have done extremely well". "Not as extremely well as he has done with his £12 million offshore, all of it sheltered from tax."

Mr Darling defended the Government, saying it wanted to ensure that tax relief was fairly distributed. "The problem we have got at the moment is that we are spending about £1.5 billion in tax relief on Peps and Tessas and by the year 2007 on present trends that would rise to over £2 billion, the equivalent of a penny on income tax."

Ministers rule out new laws on privacy

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday ruled out new gagging orders for the press and said there were no plans for a privacy law.

Lord Irvine of Lairg suggested the present system of self-regulation by newspapers could be improved but told MPs: "I do not have a particular agenda for enhancing self-regulation. There was a mistaken proposition that I desired statutory powers, I do not envisage that. Self-regulation is for the self-regulators and the Government has no plans on privacy."

He dismissed the idea that the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law would become a backdoor privacy law. "I do not believe that newspapers will be faced with injunctions on Friday nights to interrupt their deadlines."

He also confirmed for the first time that senior ministers were actively considering the future of the House of Lords once the rights of hereditary peers were abolished.

Lord Irvine told the Commons Public Administration Committee they were considering "whether it should be a fully elected chamber, a wholly nominated chamber or something inbetween".

"We are also looking at what should be done about existing life peers," he said. He ruled out any consultation with Opposition parties on reforming the Lords until Cabinet ministers had developed future policy.

Journalist joins panel on Scots parliament

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE broadcaster Kirsty Wark and the Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar are among the team of experts who will make the final selection for the design of the Scottish parliament, it emerged yesterday.

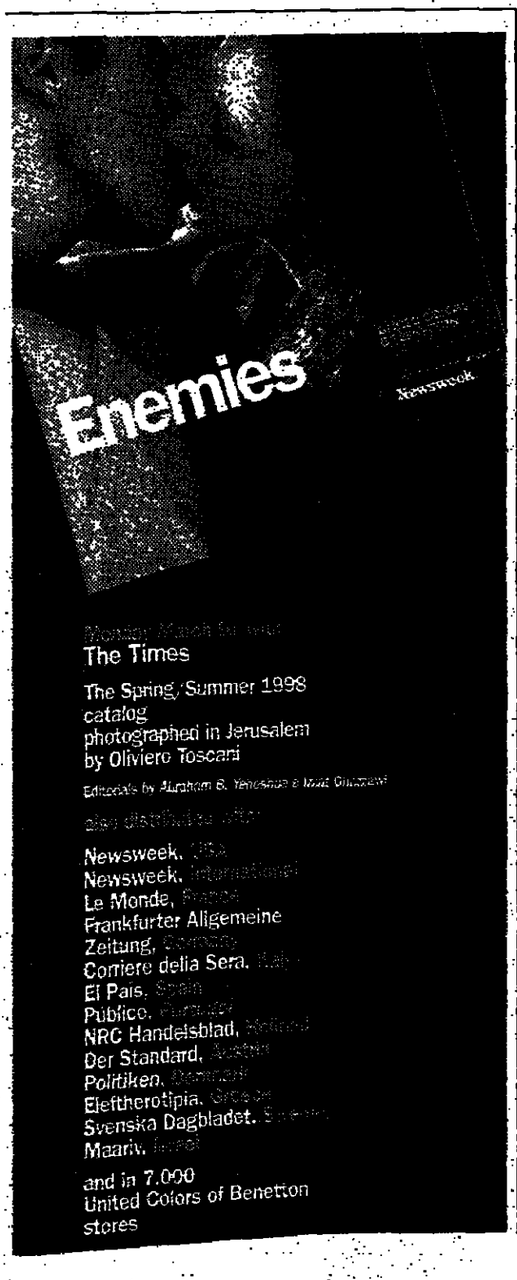
The panel of six will sift through more than 70 applications from architects who have entered the competition to design the building at Holyrood in Edinburgh. Forty of the submissions came from Scotland, 24 from England, and the others from abroad.

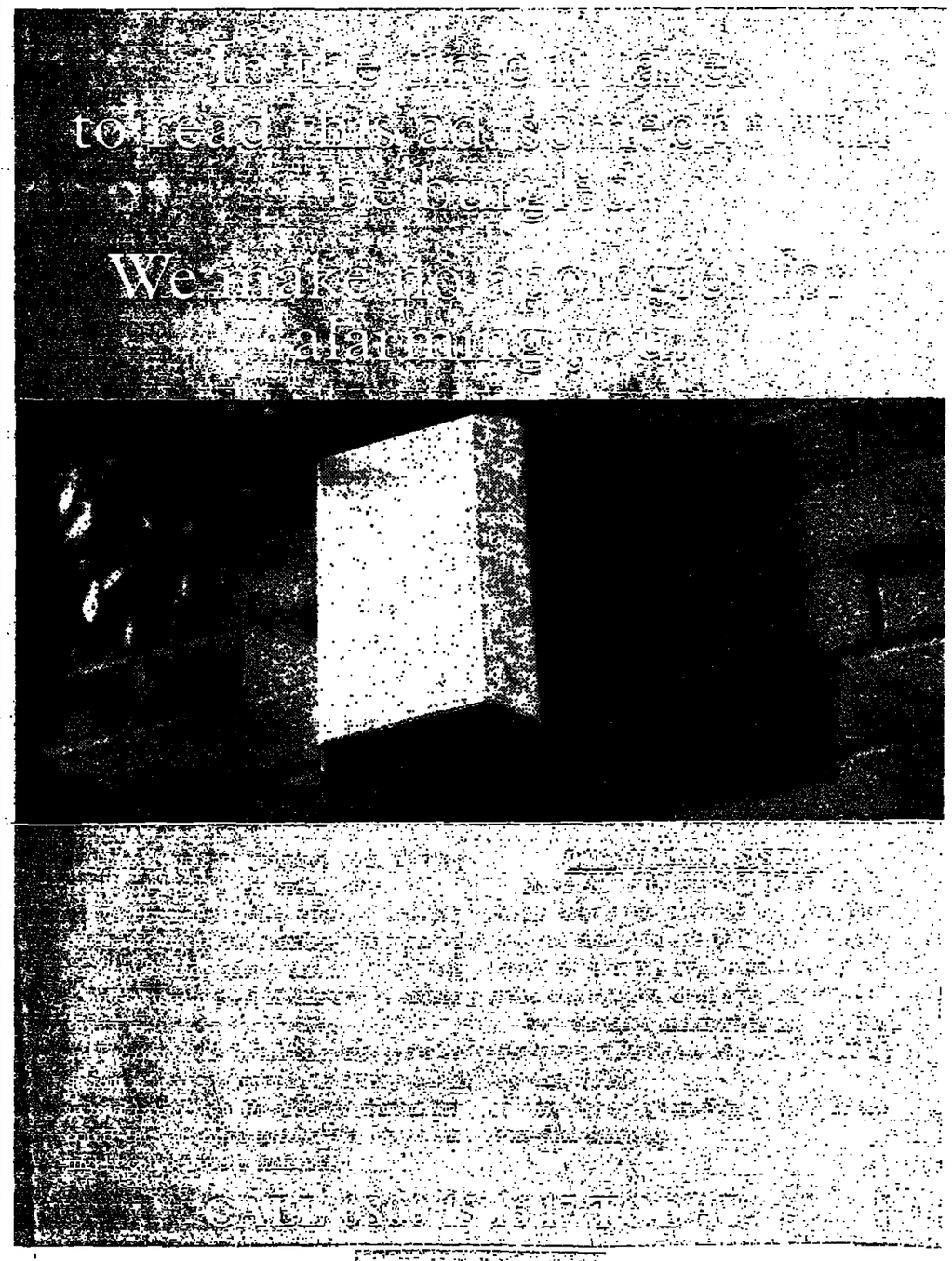
They include Alsop and Stormer, the London firm which created distinctive French regional government headquarters in Marseilles, and the Dutch firm, Pi de Bruin, which designed the Dutch parliament building in The Hague.

Twelve successful applicants will be invited to outline their design plans. They will be narrowed down to three or four finalists, whose work will go on show in May. The winner will be announced in July. Building work on the parliament is expected to begin later this year.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: debates on Channel Tunnel rail link; benefits integrity project; housing in green belt. Questions to Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and to Prime Minister. Scotland Bill, committee stage. In the Lords: debates on work of charities, and on claims that millennium is being celebrated at Greenwich on wrong meridian and in wrong year.





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Artist ends row over Holocaust memorial

Vienna: After 12 months of stubborn refusal, the British artist Rachal Whiteread has agreed that the cube of concrete she devised as a memorial to Vienna's Holocaust victims can be erected just 2ft 3in south of its planned site in the Austrian capital (Nigel Glass writes).

The memorial — *The Nameless Library* — a concrete cast of a library turned in on itself, is to be shifted slightly from its intended site in the Judenplatz or Jews' Square in order to make room for the excavation of an ancient synagogue in which Jews had martyred themselves during a 14th century pogrom.

Miss Whiteread's decision extricates the city council, which commissioned the memorial promoted by Dr Simon Wiesenthal, the Austrian investigator of Nazi crimes, from a furious public debate.

The Jewish community particularly was divided over which monument was the more important. Some objected to the cube's appearance and effect on parking.

German Army told to forget past



A military ombudswoman has proposed methods to combat neo-Nazis and low morale, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn



BLITZ / ANTE

A video picture of German soldiers acting out an execution in a training break last April. The incident led to an official investigation

GERMAN army officers should change how they present regimental tradition and stop glorifying the history of the Wehrmacht, according to a report presented to parliament yesterday.

Only a clear break with the Second World War will allow commanders to get to grips with the growing number of neo-Nazis in the barrack room, said Claire Marienfeld, the military ombudswoman, in her 60-page assessment of the mood in the army. Last year there were 177 cases of open neo-Nazi activity in the armed forces; 229 men, including two officers, were investigated on charges ranging from the singing of Third Reich songs to beating up foreigners.

Plainly, the morale of the German Army is not good. Bruised by financial cuts, it seems to be run on a shoestring: most major expenditure is going on modernising weapons technology, new aircraft such as the Eurofighter, or re-equipment. The rest of the army is having to make do. "Obviously, the motivation of military trainers is seriously affected if only between 15 and 20 per cent of the army's tanks are fit for action," the report says.

Frau Marienfeld — who makes unannounced visits to units — was seriously concerned about shortages which had, for example, grounded 50 per cent of the aircraft of at least one squadron. Even in special crisis reaction forces — supposedly the army's cream — commanders complain of severe shortages of spare parts. Troops in Bosnia were suffering, too: nine out of 25 cross-country vehicles in one unit were broken on arrival.

Analysts say units in eastern Germany earn less than in the west. Elite crisis reaction forces are better treated than troops operating only in Germany. Tension exists between professional soldiers and conscripts, who make up more than a third of the 340,000-strong army. The result, according to Frau Marienfeld, seems to be an increase not only in neo-Nazi activity, but in drug abuse and drinking. In 1993 there were 724 cases of drug use in the barrack room, last year 1,674.

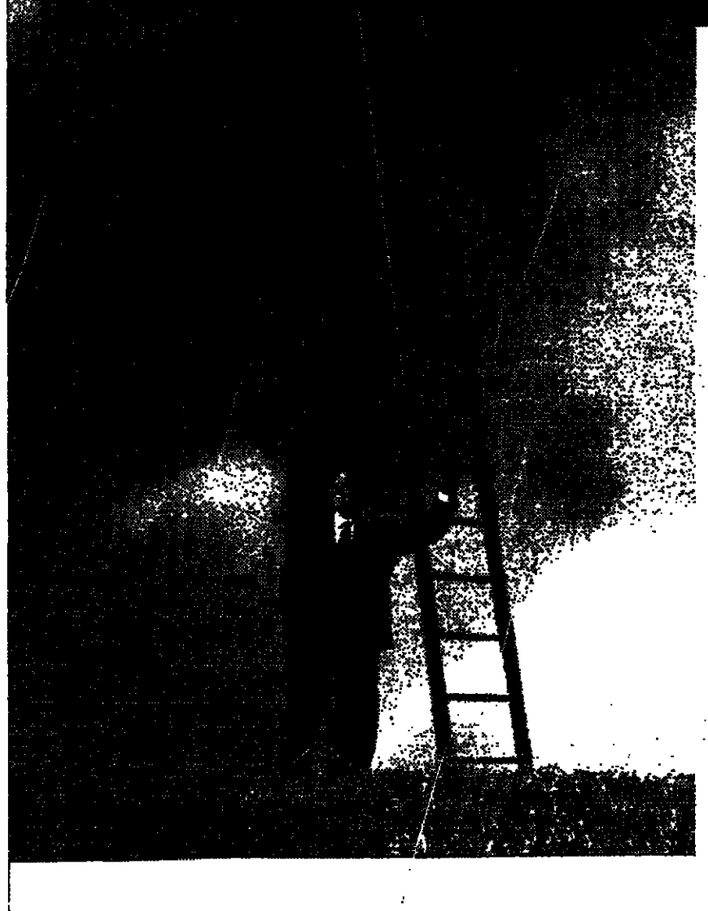
Military experts talk of a much larger grey figure, especially of marijuana smokers. The report cites various examples of drunken sergeants beating men. A drunken frigate captain ordered a one of his men to stand for hours in pouring rain.

The relationship between non-commissioned officers and conscripts has become particularly raw. One NCO ordered a soldier to do press-ups above five open knives protruding from the ground. All this is a far cry from the 1960s and 1970s when soldiers were allowed to wear hair nets to protect pony-tails.

Neo-Nazi incidents arise partly out of this financial crisis, and partly they mirror social trends. But the situation could be improved, says the ombudswoman, by officers talking more to their men. And senior commanders should make clear that there was nothing praiseworthy about the Nazi years. Frau Marienfeld said she had visited many barracks where Nazi-era uniforms and medals were on display, or clippings from army newspapers in 1941, or old maps labelled "Greater Germany". These, she made clear, had to go — or be put in a proper historical context.

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Israel launches Mossad leaks inquiry

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SHIN BET, Israel's internal security service, yesterday launched a formal inquiry into the embarrassing leaks about Mossad's bungled spy operation in Switzerland last month which has left many red faces and one agent in detention.

The investigation by the equivalent of MI5 was ordered by the Justice Ministry. According to the Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz*, the investigative committee will be led by Elyakim Rubenstein, the Attorney-General, and its aim will be "to uncover the sources of the leaks and bring them to justice".

The leaks to both the Israeli and foreign media are believed to have been motivated by dissatisfaction within Mossad about the performance of its former chief, Danny Yatom, who was forced to resign once the scale of the botched job in Berne became known. Earlier he had overseen a similar spy fiasco in Jordan.

Among the sources of the leaks have been a senior Mossad officer based under the European directorate in Brussels who revealed in an exclusive interview with *The Times* that the real purpose of the botched mission in Switzerland was to assassinate two businessmen plotting to smuggle chemical and biological weaponry to Hezbollah via the Balkans.

An earlier "sanitised" version had claimed that the Mossad hit team had only been involved in a bugging expedition.

"The investigative team will have free reign to interrogate those suspected of passing information to journalists," *Haaretz* reported. "Anyone who had access to the information, including the Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, could be subject to questioning."

The Government's attempt at a cover-up has been attacked by leading Israeli commentators. "What would have happened if the affair was not reported?" asked Sever Plotzker in the Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot*. "Israel would have been washed by with a wave of uncontrolled false rumours."

Letters, page 19



Sakakibara: accused of peddling influence

Hashimoto humbles financial mandarin

BY JOANNA PITMAN

JAPAN'S most influential financial mandarin, Eisuke Sakakibara, suffered the shame of being criticised in parliament yesterday for alleged peddling of influence. The move signalled the intention of the Prime Minister, RyutaroHashimoto, to clamp down harder than many had expected on the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Sakakibara, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, and familiarly known as "Mr Yen" for his apparent ability to influence the yen-dollar exchange rate, has been accused by an MP of persuading a major brokerage house to compensate investment losses incurred by a friend.

The ministry's Deputy Vice-Minister, Toshiro Muto, responded to the allegation by telling a budget committee that the department had already held its own investigation and had found no wrongdoing. But Mr Hashimoto replied: "Investigations should be carried out wherever necessary in order to avoid public distrust of civil servants and to thoroughly enforce official discipline."

Mr Sakakibara, apart from being considered a key influence on Japan's foreign exchange market, is an important policymaker in international economic affairs. Financial markets will be watching for signs of Mr Hashimoto's inclination to defend or dump him. The yen dropped to 126 against the dollar on news of the scandal.

Mr Hashimoto owes much of his Liberal Democratic Party's strength since last October's election to promises to curb the influence of meddlesome bureaucracy. The Ministry of Finance is top of his list.

Weizman seeks second term in Knesset ballot

Jerusalem: President Weizman of Israel seeks re-election for a second term today in a secret Knesset ballot spiced by a dark-horse challenger and bitter opposition to his tenure from the widow and family of the murdered Labour Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin (Christopher Walker writes).

Although the post is largely symbolic, the President traditionally exercises strong moral influence and under Mr Weizman, the job has been used to try to bolster the flagging Middle East peace process and promote Israel's standing abroad.

Mr Weizman, a former Spitfire pilot and Air Force commander famed as much for his sharp tongue and quick temper as for his record as a warrior and peacemaker, had anticipated an easy ride to a second five-year term. That changed last month when he learnt that he would be challenged by Moroccan-born Shaul Amor, an obscure backbencher from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud Party.

EU will press Serbs to halt killing

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ROBIN COOK is to confront President Milosevic tomorrow over his crackdown on the Albanian majority in Kosovo.

The Foreign Secretary, who arrived in Bosnia last night, will fly to Belgrade for talks on the growing tension that has already led to at least 20 deaths. Mr Cook, representing the European Union, will tell the leader of what remains of Yugoslavia that the EU is deeply concerned about the outbreak of violence, which it has condemned unreservedly.

He is expected to warn Mr Milosevic that Yugoslavia could face fresh international sanctions if Serbian police use unreasonable force or if reports of random killings are proven.

Mr Cook is also trying to arrange a meeting with leaders of the opposition and of the Albanian students who have called for protests against the ruling Serbs. He will tell them that the EU condemns the use of terror and shootings by the Kosovo Liberation Army to achieve the Albanians' political ends.

Today he will have talks in Sarajevo with leaders of the collective presidency. A main topic will be the urgency of containing the violence in Kosovo, which Britain fears could quickly involve other Balkan neighbours.

Mr Cook will also go to Banja Luka, where he will discuss the military situation in Bosnia with the commanders at the headquarters of the British Nato forces in former Yugoslavia.

He visited Bosnia last June and gave a warning then that all parties must settle their differences and make the collective presidency work. He also warned the factions that corruption was undermining international support for the rebuilding of Bosnia.

Since then Britain has been encouraged by the election of a more moderate Bosnian Serb Government, the commitment by the Bosnian Serbs to carry out the Dayton accords and the voluntary surrender of several Serbs wanted by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

☐ **London:** Refugee agencies coping with an increasing number of asylum seekers from Kosovo have predicted an imminent mass migration after last weekend's violence (Victoria Fletcher writes). Last year, almost 1,000 ethnic Albanians fled to Britain from Kosovo. Other countries have been less sympathetic. Germany and Switzerland have repatriated many of the refugees.

SASA STANKOVIC / EPA



The family of Goran Radojcic, one of four police officers killed in clashes in Kosovo, at his funeral and that of a colleague in Pancevo

Unrest ignites fuse of Kosovo timebomb

The Yugoslav conflict began in the Albanian-dominated province, and may end there, **James Pettifer** writes

IN THE past ten years of Yugoslav crisis, Kosovo has been the bomb that has never gone off. The 90 per cent ethnic Albanian province has seemed a prime candidate for conflict, with its grinding poverty, grim human rights record and Serbian martial law. But until last year a kind of peace prevailed, if it was only the peace of violent forays into picturesque mountain villages, beatings in jails and deaths in custody.

Now the fuse has been lit. After last year's spring rising, Albanians gained access to light weapons so that they can fight a long, low-level guerrilla struggle against the Serbian security apparatus.

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has begun the fightback, and in dangerous circumstances. In nearby northern Albania, chaos reigns, with local warlords, often loyal to ex-President Sali Berisha, in charge.

Over hundreds of miles, from the Adriatic to central Macedonia, authority is breaking down. The responsible but struggling Kosovo leadership of Ibrahim Rugova is calling for the internationalisation of the conflict to prevent a bloodbath. But all Serbs, not just the Milosevic regime, see Kosovo as their heartland. Kosovo was "old Serbia", the heart of the original medieval nation.

The central issue that the West has also evaded is that Kosovo is at the heart of the rise to power of Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President. The tragedy of the past ten years began in Kosovo and it may end there. Ethnic Albanians controlled it in the 1980s and displaced the Serbian minority. The Milosevic regime was built on a promise to defend them and remove the rights of Albanians under the 1974 Yugoslav Constitution.

Current Western policy is for the restoration of those rights in the new third Yugoslavia, but it is futile. The simple fact is that the overwhelming majority of Kosovans do not want to live in any Yugoslavia, let alone one run by President Milosevic. The Albanian communities are becoming increasingly radical and many sympathise with the Liberation Army guerrillas. Current Western policy hit the buffers in Pristina last week when Robert Gelberd, the US Balkan emissary, offered virtually nothing to the Albanians. President Milosevic can effectively blackmail the US with threats to pull out of the Dayton process and withdraw his support for Bosnian Serb moderates.

Most Belgrade insiders believe there is a covert understanding at work, a trade-off for Mr Milosevic between Bosnia and Kosovo. As success in Bosnia with Dayton is central to US prestige in the region, the grim arithmetic of power gives Mr Milosevic the capacity to increase dramatically the level of violence. But this disastrous path of short-term deals with Belgrade needs to be questioned before Kosovo is swept into a maelstrom of violence. The past few years show conclusively that short-termism in the Balkans achieves nothing. Kosovo needs its own independent United Nations rapporteur to try to bring the moderate parties together.

This is not an impossible dream. Most Kosovo Serbs are poor, fairly tolerant of Albanians and desperately fearful of a war in which most of them would be massacred. Every Kosovo community has a few Serbs. If war comes they will pay the price for the misdeeds of their northern brethren.

Most Albanians still support Dr Rugova, even if that support is eroding daily. This UN initiative is needed to prevent chaos that, even by local standards, is likely to be particularly bloody and will almost certainly spread to Macedonia. The international community must recognise the centrality of Kosovo, and the UN must have a proper role in the Balkans.

TURBULENT HISTORY

Land of ancient bitter enmity

Why is Kosovo the new Balkan flashpoint?

☐ Albanians have protested against Yugoslav rule since the 1920s.

☐ Thousands of Albanians fled to Turkey after an abortive uprising from 1946 to 1948.

☐ Riots in which more than 50 Albanians died took place between 1981 and 1989.

☐ Slobodan Milosevic rode to power in Yugoslavia in 1987 on a promise to protect Kosovo's Serbian minority and abolished its regional autonomy.

☐ The population of ethnic Albanians increased dramatically in recent years to 90 per cent as Serbs fled.

☐ The majority ethnic Albanians now seem prepared to fight for independence.

Contested history lies at the heart of many Balkan conflicts and in Kosovo there is no shortage of it (James Pettifer writes). Even the name is an issue between Serbs and the 90 per cent Albanian majority, with Albanians saying Kosova and Serbs, Kosovo-Metohija. To the Serbs, it is at the heart of the original Serbian nation, with its patriarchate at Pec. The town of Prizren was the seat of the medieval Nemanic dynasty which believed a national state needed a national church, and in 1219, St Sava became the first archbishop of Serbia.

But the mainly Muslim Albanians have also always lived in Kosovo and are descended from the ancient Illyrians who, with the Greeks, were early Balkan inhabitants. Albanians say the Serbs occupied their land in the Slav invasions when the Roman Empire collapsed.

After a failed anti-Turkish revolt, thousands of Serbs left Kosovo in 1690 and trekked north. Serbs say Albanians then stole their land.

The scene was set for intractable ethnic conflict. Kosovo is a rich prize. Much of it is arable. Lead and silver have been mined since Roman times and Kosovo lignite fuels big power plants.

Albanian pacifist leader exposed in eye of storm

BY JAMES PETTIFER

FEW Balkan leaders have the image of the "sea green incorruptible" pacifist, but Ibrahim Rugova, the 54-year-old leader of the Kosovo Albanians has. He is the man in the eye of the new Balkan storm and his commitment to peace will be tested in the next few weeks.

The tall, thin, bespectacled structuralist literary critic, with the inevitable black suit and loose scarf, looks more at home at the Sorbonne than in Pristina's mean and bitter streets. The ever-present cigarette, gentle ironic humour and dandyish elegance belong on the grand boulevards.

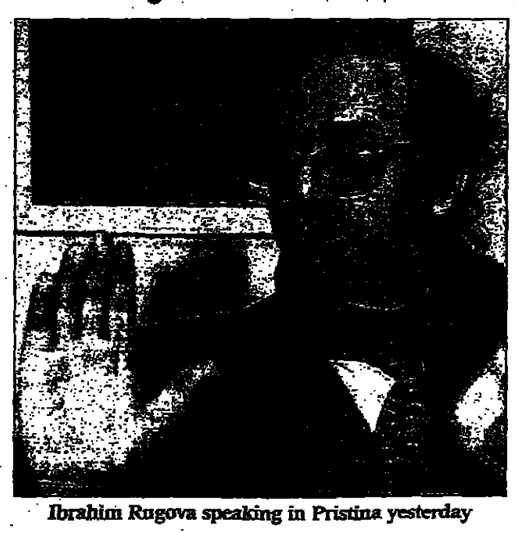
Dr Rugova spent several years at the University of Paris in the circle of Roland Barthes, and married a fellow Albanian teacher. But with the end of the old Yugoslavia, politics took over and he has been Kosovo's leader for the past ten years.

His bodyguard and adviser, Adnan Merovci, is rarely far from his side. Mr Merovci once told me: "I create respect for Dr Rugova."

But there is little respect for him in Belgrade. Yugoslavs take him for granted and some foreign diplomats find him inflexible. However, his pledge of an independent Kosovo republic by peaceful means kept Albanians united behind his Democratic League until the rival Kosovo Liberation Army appeared last year.

There is steel under the academic exterior. As so often in the Balkans, his attitudes were moulded by the Second World War. When he was a baby in 1945, Dr Rugova's father and grandfather were executed in front of the family home by Serbians. He thinks of Yugoslavia as a foreign culture and has been engaged in a long quest for revenge.

It remains to be seen if he can survive the current turmoil. In Pristina last week, the Democratic League leadership was purged and power concentrated in Dr Rugova. Whether that will be enough to prevent Albanians choosing the violent option, after years of patience and broken promises by the international community, no one can tell.



Ibrahim Rugova speaking in Pristina yesterday

Russians urge dialogue on Belgrade allies

Moscow: Russia, traditionally an ally of Serbia, appealed yesterday for restraint and dialogue to avert further bloodshed in Kosovo. "We call for restraint, the renunciation of violence and for the swift start of dialogue between the federal Yugoslav authorities and representatives of Kosovo's Albanian community," Gennadi Tarasov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. "This is the only way to normalise the situation."

Macedonia said it was "deeply concerned" about the situation in Kosovo. It had urged the Yugoslav authorities and ethnic Albanian leaders to start a dialogue "as fast as possible", the Macedonian Foreign Ministry said. Lazar Kitanovski, the Macedonian Defence Minister, said: "The whole Balkans is in danger, since many countries will feel obliged to be involved," in a conflict.

Greece also appealed for restraint and said it was sending Theodoros Pangalos, the Foreign Minister, to Belgrade for talks. *(Reuters, AFP)*

MORE OVERSEAS NEWS ON PAGE 14

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Milton Keynes	£122
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£110
Norwich	£125
Nottingham City	£128
Nottingham/Derby	£110
Peterborough	£115
Plymouth	£138
Portsmouth	£130
Preston	£110
Reading	£125
Rochester	£115
Rugby/Northampton	£113
Sheffield	£113
Southampton	£128
Southampton/Eastleigh	£125
Southampton The Polygon	£113
South Mimms	£120
Stevenage	£105
Stoke-on-Trent	£120
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Canterbury Chaucer Hotel	£151
Cheltenham The Queen's	£216
Chester Blossoms Hotel	£182
Dartmouth Dart Marina	£222
Dorking** The White Horse Hotel	£174
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Exeter The Southgate	£141
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Forest of Dean The Speech House	£147
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Hereford The Green Dragon	£198
Hertingfordbury** The White Horse	£148
Kingston Kingston Lodge	£171
Lavenham The Swan	£208
Leeds Queen's Hotel	£149
Long Melford The Bull	£176
Manchester** Victoria & Albert	£176
Marlborough The Castle & Ball	£138
Matlock Bath The New Bath Hotel	£164
Maidenhead/C'church The Awarecroft Hotel	£189
North Berwick The Marine	£135
Oundle The Talbot	£148
Oxford Eastgate Hotel	£227
Oxford The Randolph	£226
Padstow The Metropole	£182
Romsey/New Forest The White House	£158
Ross-on-Wye The Royal	£148
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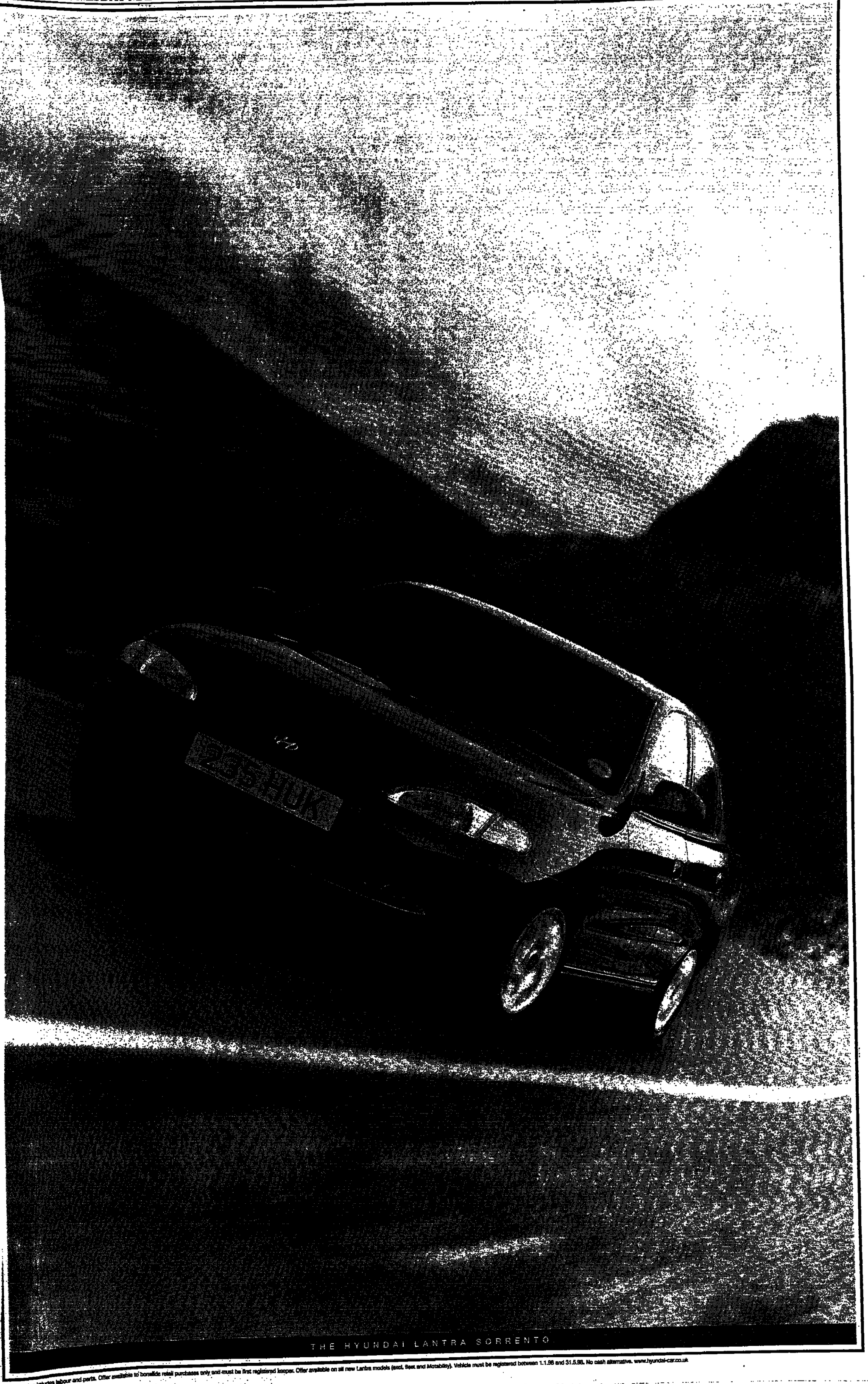
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Suharto ordered to toe IMF line

Jakarta: The United States yesterday demanded that President Suharto stick to a tough International Monetary Fund reform programme for Indonesia's ailing economy.

As students staged more demonstrations calling for political and economic change, Walter Mondale, the former US Vice-President, told the veteran Indonesian leader to toe the IMF line. There are fears that Mr Suharto is ignoring reform to concentrate on countering pressure for political change.

Mr Mondale, an envoy for President Clinton, told reporters after the 90-minute meeting with Mr Suharto that Indonesia had to swallow its tough economic medicine. He refused to comment on reports that a second tranche of the $40 billion (£24 million) IMF bail-out might be withheld if the reforms were not implemented. *(AFP)*

Congress thwarts BJP's chance of outright win

INDIA'S general election produced political chaos as final results came in last night, with no party able to command a parliamentary majority. The shape of the next government will be decided in backroom bargaining over coming days, but whatever emerges is likely to be unstable and short-lived.

The pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party significantly strengthened its position, but even with support from its allies it is about 20 seats short of a majority in the 543-seat Lok Sabha (lower house).

The Congress Party also gained more seats, thanks to the efforts of Sonia Gandhi, its star campaigner, who saved it from what many believed would be annihilation at the hands of a disgusted electorate. The biggest loser was the United Front, a coalition of 14 parties that ran the last administration with support from Congress.

The two groups fell out, forcing the country into its second election in less than two years. They began negotiating last night about a possible new alliance to out-vote the BJP, their differences suddenly overlooked in the scramble for power.

The rise of the BJP has been one of the most remarkable political phenomena in independent India. Its Hindu nationalism worries the nation's 120 million Muslims, but its articulation of fierce patriotism struck a chord among ordinary Hindus. It played a direct part in the 1992 destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu extremists.

INDIAN ELECTIONS



From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

Rival parties are scrabbling for a government role after the electorate showed its weariness with politics

The party says it would carry out a nuclear test and re-examine economic policies to keep out "unneeded" foreign investors such as McDonald's and Coca-Cola, although it has not threatened to force any companies to leave. Its election manifesto demands investment "in microchips, not potato chips". The Congress Party, which ruled India for more than 40 of the past 50 years, was dazzled by its performance — a far cry from its more glorious past but still a remarkable achievement given the collapse of morale before Mrs Gandhi answered its appeal for help.

She drew huge crowds and put the party back in the running, to the dismay of the BJP, from whom she snatched the likelihood of a clear victory. The party attacked her as corrupt and played up the fact that she was foreign-born, but the crowds kept coming to see her and her children, Priyanka and Rahul.

President Narayanan has the task of sorting out the mess left by an electorate that has lost faith in politics and politicians. He may first invite the BJP, as the biggest single party, to submit itself to a confidence vote in parliament.

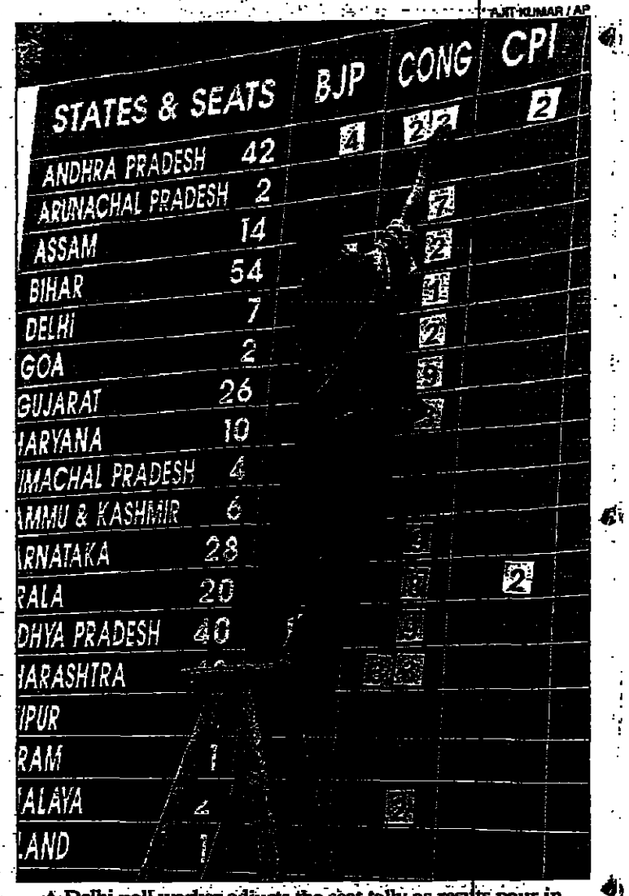
Both sides expressed confidence of victory last night. Independent MPs and small parties, anxious to join the winning side, are mostly waiting for the picture to be clarified before committing themselves.

The BJP could draw the support of many of them because it is less of a political pariah than a few years ago, when it began articulating more moderate policies in an attempt to shed its extremist image.

However, it is still condemned by opponents as a threat to India's secular tradition. It has said it would seek to scrap Muslim personal law, which allows a man to take up to four wives and to divorce with the words "talaq, talaq, talaq" ("I divorce thee, I divorce thee, I divorce thee").

The Congress Party leadership is due to meet on Friday to assess the progress of negotiations with the United Front and to decide whether to stake a claim with President Narayanan to form the Government. The BJP will start talking to potential allies today about a joint policy in the hope of convincing the President that it is capable of forming a coalition.

☐ **Mirzapur defeat:** Phoolan Devi, the "Bandit Queen" who turned politician, was defeated in her Mirzapur constituency in Uttar Pradesh. *(AFP)*



A Delhi poll worker adjusts the seat tally as results pour in

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WORLD IN BRIEF

Unions flex muscle to halt Zimbabwe

Harare: Most of Zimbabwe was brought to a standstill yesterday by industrial action — but no violence — as the trade union movement demonstrated its new political influence to President Mugabe's Government (Jan Raath writes).

Factories, building sites, shops and banks closed in the deserted capital, as well as government offices, schools and post offices, in answer to a call by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions for a two-day strike. It is demanding the dropping of taxes and levies that have helped to make basic commodities unaffordable to many, action to rescue the crumbling economy, and constitutional reforms and a halt to state corruption.

Spanner in the Mir works

Moscow: The accident-prone Russian space station Mir suffered yet another mishap when the crew had to abandon a planned spacewalk after an exit hatch jammed (Robin Lodge writes). The two cosmonauts, Talgat Musabayev and Nikolai Budarin, broke all three spanners on board while attempting to force the hatch open. Mission control officials said the spacewalk during which the two men were to have repaired a damaged solar panel, would have to be postponed until next month to allow time to send up replacement spanners.

Activists held in Lagos protest

Lagos: Nigerian police fired teargas to disperse a crowd of about 2,000 gathering for a banned demonstration against the military junta. The police arrested a number of activists including Olisa Agbakoba, a lawyer and one of the principal organisers of the rally, witnesses said. Some of the others arrested were students. They were opposing the candidature of General Sani Abacha, leader of the junta, in presidential elections scheduled for August, and calling for the release of political detainees. *(AFP)*

Seoul leader picks Cabinet



Seoul: President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea announced his first Cabinet, naming Kim Jong Pil, right, as acting Prime Minister in the face of opposition protests. "We cannot afford to let the Government drift without a Cabinet any longer," he said in appointing the 17-strong lineup six days after taking office for a five-year term. The President rejected opposition criticism and said his new Prime Minister was competent to help to overcome the economic crisis. *(AFP)*

Counting starts in Cambodia

Phnom Penh: Cambodia's first nationwide census in more than 35 years is under way (Caroline Gluck writes). Over the next ten days, 25,000 enumerators will be visiting about two million homes and travelling to remote regions by boat, ox cart and even elephants. The organisers say there are few reliable statistics in Cambodia and the census, the first since the reign of the Khmer Rouge during which at least a million people were killed, will provide essential data for policy planners.

Kabila executions reach 60

Kinshasa: A firing squad in the Democratic Republic of the Congo executed 16 criminals in front of thousands of onlookers, military sources said. The executions, in an army camp in the south-eastern city of Lubumbashi, brought to 60 the number of people executed by firing squads since President Kabila took power in May. Mr Kabila rejected an appeal for clemency by the men — 14 civilians and two soldiers — who had been charged with murder and armed robbery. *(Reuters)*

De Niro judge may be axed



Paris: Judge Frédéric Nguyen, who detained Robert De Niro, left, in connection with a year-long international vice inquiry, could be taken off the case after defence lawyers lodged a formal complaint (Adam Sage writes). The move follows mounting criticism of the French judge, 42, whose methods have been called brutal and eccentric. The complaint was brought by the lawyer for Wojtek Fibak, the former Polish tennis champion, who is accused of sexual assault and attempted rape.

Athens to repay parking fines

Athens: Dimitris Avramopoulos, the Mayor of Athens, promised to refund 350 million drachmas (£1m) paid in parking fines after one of Greece's highest courts ruled it was illegal for private companies to issue tickets. Athenians burned parking tickets to celebrate the decision that only police can fine motorists for parking on public property. *(AP)*

U2 does city a power of good

Wellington: Irish rock band U2 came to the aid of power-hungry Auckland when its giant cargo plane was used to fly in generators to help to relieve a 12-day power cut. Mercury Energy, whose four main cables to Auckland failed, is struggling to cope both with the power cut, expected to last until next Monday, and a world shortage of transport planes. *(Reuters)*

Scouts' ban on gays is ruled illegal

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Scout movement in America is in turmoil after an appeals court ruled the organisation's ban on homosexuals illegal and reinstated a gay scoutmaster to his post.

James Dale, now 27, joined the Cub Scouts in New Jersey at the age of eight and rose to the highest rank of Eagle Scout. He was thrown out of the movement at the age of 19 when he admitted that he was homosexual.

The 4.5 million-strong Boy Scouts of America, which says it will appeal against the ruling, argued that it had the right to bar homosexuals from an organisation for boys and said Mr Dale had violated the Scout Oath that requires members to remain "morally straight".

But the 1978 ban is being challenged in a string of US lawsuits. In Mr Dale's case, the New Jersey Appeals Court rebuked the trial judge for describing him as an "active sodomist" and said the ban violated the state's non-discrimination laws. The court added that there was "absolutely no evidence" that a homosexual could not properly serve as a scoutmaster because of his sexuality.

Gates defends innovators at Senate hearing

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BILL GATES yesterday told Congress that America's survival in the age of global markets was at risk if it shackled his Microsoft empire and other symbols of entrepreneurial genius with government red tape.

Mr Gates told the Senate that "innovation depends on freedom", and gave a warning that his creation, often called the most successful company in America today, will fail if blocked from innovation by regulation.

In a drab blue suit, white shirt and tie, his lashes blinking fast behind large glasses, Mr Gates hardly looked the picture of a man with a personal fortune of $48 billion (£29.5 billion). But in a passionate defence of the "breathtaking advances" of his industry, he told the Senate Judiciary Committee that freedom and innovation kept America great in the age of global markets and dismissed accusations that Microsoft had abused its dominance of the personal computer market. The price of computer products had fallen ten million-fold in a couple of decades because of innovation, he told the panel. "That's like getting a Boeing 747 for the price of a pizza," he said.

"The one thing that counts is, are we allowed to innovate our products?" he told *The Washington Post* before the hearing. "I'm confident that our right to innovate our products will be preserved."



Gates: company will collapse if regulated

Microsoft is the target of a Justice Department anti-trust suit about its methods in using the worldwide popularity of its Windows operating system to try to secure an equally powerful grasp on Internet software. It also has an eye on the developing markets of interactive television and hand-held computers.

The Senate hearings have no direct bearing on the Justice Department case, but they provide a crucial, time-honoured way of testing the political water. "No anti-trust agency can afford to outrun a political consensus," William Kovacic, law professor at George Mason University, said.

The Microsoft case is highly sensitive because it touches on America's traditional ambivalence about corporate success: hailing self-made tycoons such as Mr Gates as national heroes, but being passionate about curbing monopolies.

Mr Gates planned yesterday to tell the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Orrin Hatch, one of his most steadfast critics, that he was doing only what consumers wanted. "Give me a break," he said. "People buy our products because they like the products. We are an incredibly popular company."

Mr Hatch has summoned the stars of the computer industry as part of his long-running investigation into whether the anti-trust laws, drafted to rein back the all-powerful oil and railway monopolies, can cope with the fast-changing world of information technology.

Ranged against Mr Gates were his greatest critics in the industry, James Barksdale, the president of Netscape Communications, and Scott McNealy, chief executive of Sun Microsystems.

Speaking in advance of the hearings, Mr McNealy said: "We think, left unchecked, Microsoft has a monopoly position that they could use to leverage their way into banking, newspapers, cable and broadcasting, Internet service providers, applications, database browsers. You name it. When you have a monopolist in the food chain, they absolutely have Pac Man capabilities."

CHUCK BURTON / AP



Kelly Jane Campbell, front, and Michelle Chambers leave court in Charlotte after being held in connection with the theft, allegedly carried out by David Ghantt, below



Suspect in $17m theft caught after manhunt

Charlotte, North Carolina: A five-month manhunt ended when an armoured car driver, suspected of stealing $17 million (£10.3 million) from his company's vault, was finally arrested.

David Scott Ghantt, 28, was seized on Sunday at Playa del Carmen, Mexico, near the island resort of Cozumel. On Monday, he was returned to Charlotte, where he is charged with stealing a van full of cash from the vault at Loomis, Fargo and Company. The van was later found with $3 million inside it. Seven other people, including Michelle Chambers and Kelly Jane Campbell, were also arrested.

Mr Ghantt, a decorated Army veteran who served in the Gulf War, was charged in October with larceny. *(AP)*

Clinton's confidant is grilled about Lewinsky

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Monica Lewinsky investigation once more focused on the core issue of her relationship with President Clinton yesterday with the grand jury appearance of Vernon Jordan. The presidential confidant, a lawyer who found her a job, denies he was trying to buy her silence.

At the same time, William Ginsburg, Ms Lewinsky's lawyer, said that she had never had a sexual relationship with Mr Clinton — the firmest such statement he has issued since the scandal broke six weeks ago. His comments appeared to contradict the written offer that he made to Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, describing testimony that she would give if granted immunity from prosecution.

Mr Ginsburg said he believed Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky were alone in the Oval Office a few times, but there was neither enough time nor enough privacy for any "salacious event". He said the comments were based on his own investigation, not what Ms Lewinsky might have told him.

A silent Mr Jordan was jostled by a throng of cameramen as he entered the Washington court house for the start of his pivotal, secret testimony. He had earlier pledged to answer "directly, completely and truthfully". Washington assumed that Mr Jordan's loyalty and friendship to Mr Clinton would be severely tested.

Mr Jordan has recently told friends that while he remains a loyal friend, he is not a fool, a remark that seemed to put some distance between him and the President.

When Mr Jordan was asked to find a job for Ms Lewinsky by Mr Clinton's personal secretary he was reportedly unaware that the President already knew the former White House trainee had been warned she was a potential witness in the Paula Jones lawsuit accusing Mr Clinton of sexual harassment.

Italy outlaws blasphemous Mafia film

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AN ITALIAN film shown two weeks ago at the Berlin Film Festival has been banned from public showings throughout Italy because it involves blasphemy, group sex, Mafia violence and "perversion", including a scene involving sexual arousal and an image of the Virgin Mary.

Toto Who Lives Twice (Toto che visse due volte) is the first film to be banned in Italy since 1975, when censors blocked the release of Pasolini's *Salo* — his account of life in Mussolini's puppet state. *Toto* is by two Sicilian directors in their thirties, Daniele Cipri and Franco Maresco, and was made with a state arts subsidy of £500,000. It was judged by the Censorship Board to be "unsuitable for any category whatsoever".

The film, described by the makers as "a parable of degradation and guilt", is set in Sicily and mixes Mafia and biblical imagery, with Toto (short for Salvatore, which literally means Saviour) as both a Mafia boss and a Messiah figure.

Lazarus, who in the Bible is resurrected by Christ, is represented as a Mafia gangster who is dissolved in an acid bath by rival mafiosi. The film includes a parody of the *Last Supper*. The village idiot is crucified on a hill after witnessing scenes of group sodomy and other sexual activity involving a statue of the Madonna. The film is shot in black and white and uses amateur actors speaking in Sicilian dialect.

Andrea Occhipinti, of Lucky Red, the film's distributors, said the film would have a "private premiere" in Palermo by invitation only.

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A friend and money are soon parted

A new book claims that we value money more than friendship. Erica Wagner examines this fraught subject and below, Bill Frost describes relationships which have been ruined by conflicts over cash

MOVIESTORE COLLECTION



Unforgivable: The mere mention of money it seems, can threaten a strong and fine relationship

She stammered at the other end of the phone. "Um, yes," Lisa said. "I suppose so . . . of course." Then there was a silence, thick with worry, the muffled anxiety that bodes ill for friendship. "This isn't about *us*, is it?" she asked softly, at last.

I'm writing an article about money and forgiveness — or the lack of it — I'd said to my good friend, whom I thought, for no particular reason other than that she was thoughtful and had seen a bit of the world, might have some interesting things to say. A new book, *The Last Art of Forgiveness*, claims that Britons place a higher value on money than on friendships and relationships. Nine out of ten people, its survey says, would turn their backs on a partner who ran off with a winning lottery ticket; eight out of ten would view the squandering of joint savings as an unpardonable sin.

> 'You will sleep with someone before revealing earnings'

Perhaps this is not surprising when the whole subject of money is so fraught, when the mere mention of it seemed to threaten a fine friendship. Of course it wasn't about us, I said to Lisa. The *farthest thing from my mind*. And then we laughed, but a little uneasily.

Hours later I called home to hear of an exchange of letters between members of my family breaking off relationships — between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren — for ever. *You will never see us again. Good riddance.* Words as hard as blows, the ugliest words. The reason? Money.

"Money is constantly trying to commodify relationships," says James Buchan, author of *Frozen Desire: The Psychology of Money* (Picador, £17.99). "It's neutral, it's impersonal, it has no history, and it tries to impose those characteristics on all interactions. Money enters practically every relationship, even in the closest of family bonds, and will usually disturb or distort that relationship."

The love of money is the root of all evil, St Paul wrote to St Timothy; many writers since have elaborated upon the topic. The labyrinthine plots of Dickens's novels are twisted with it: the want of it, the having of it breaks families and friendships; the golden current flows through the work of Henry James. Long before Martin Amis's novel *Money* (and long before money drove Amis from one agent to another and separated him from his snooker partner Julian Barnes) Edward Bulwer-Lytton, renowned in his day, used the title for his 1840 play. Perhaps because writing is notoriously unremunerative, authors are particularly obsessed by the topic. Obsession is bred of secrecy: secrecy surrounds money, builds a high wall so that the hand of friendship cannot reach over. "You'd sleep with someone before you'd tell them your salary," another friend says to me, and I reckon she's right: "What do you earn?" is a sure-fire conversation stopper.

In the past few months my husband has given up his job to train for a new career. The whispered advice of friends made us enter the single-salaried state (even worse, the salary the woman's) with tiptoeing caution, afraid that the loss of that monthly cheque would result in spiritual imbalance, a loss of worth made evident in more than pounds and pence.

Joanna — her partner has changed his career too — agrees. "People are mystified. It doesn't square with their expectations of how life should be. They will be very oblique. 'You must be very understanding,' they say. It's horrible."

You might not talk about what you earn, but you'll probably show it. What pays for the mobile phone, the new computer, the children's toys? Who pays? Does it matter? Clearly it does — more than most things. "Money carries with it the prestige of mathematics," Buchan says. "It seems to be an exact measure, and worth more than just a judgment. To say that a tennis player earns so much is of more value than to say he is a wonderful tennis player.

"To be poor is to be worthless nowadays, and I don't see that changing in the near future."

It seems no wonder that forgiveness, that most pliant of virtues, fails to stand up against such a rigid measure of worth.

Once, in my presence, a restaurant bill for not a great sum was passed around a table. It landed, by the lights of all concerned, in the wrong hands. It was the last event in a long train of events (a train whose carriages, locked and barred, were stuffed with cash): the credit card handed to the waiter cut the friendship like a knife. Forgiveness was sought but never achieved; wounds healed but did not cease to ache. I find the results of this study far too easy to believe.

● The Lost Art of Forgiving *by Christopher Arnold (Plough Publishing House, £7.99)*

When a Lottery win can spark a bitter feud

MANY OF us know at least one couple torn apart by the greed, fear and anger that only money, or the lack of it, can breed in a relationship. Almost daily, the tabloids tell of National Lottery winners turned life's losers through avarice, profligacy and betrayal.

A dream came true for Nadine Slack and her boyfriend Russell Loughlin when they scooped a £1.3 million fortune two years ago. They moved from a one-bedroomed flat to a £250,000 country cottage and embarked on the mother of all spending sprees.

And then the dream became a nightmare of acrimonious rows over money and who had *really* won the lottery. Nadine, pregnant at the time of the draw, chose the lucky numbers while unemployed Russell paid for the ticket.

Extravagant shopping expeditions and exotic holidays ate into the jackpot as the couple sniped and squabbled. Designer clothes were thrown out when dirty to save on washing. Although at each other's throats, they continued to squander their win before finally parting. A close friend said: "The lottery brought nothing but misery. Their first argument was over who had won."

Nadine, 23, does not blame the win for the break-up of the relationship, though. "The Lottery did not ruin my life. He did," she says. Russell, 24, is not speaking to the press while the couple wrangle over their last £300,000. He is said to have become "a virtual recluse", rarely leaving his mother's home.

Over the weekend, details of another family's disintegration after a lottery win further underscored the point that Britons will not forgive each other after falling out over money.

Patrick Hallisey, a former rag-and-bone man from Rochdale, Greater Manchester, went public with his private grief over daughter Mary Booth's alleged unwillingness to share her £1.2 million jackpot with her brother and two sisters.

"I reared her and the family out of scrap and bits of rag," he says. "But she seems to have forgotten those days when we struggled to get enough money for food and clothes. Mary used to be a good worker when we scraped a living but she does not want to know us now she has come into money."

ALBAN DONOHOE



Nadine Slack and Russell Loughlin's £250,000 house

Miss Booth, who quit her Post Office job after she won two weeks ago, is discussing her options with financial advisers. "Once we know how we are fixed, I will sort other people out," she said.

Julia and John's bitter parting over money is a rather different late-20th-century cautionary tale. They split just months before their planned marriage and now communicate only through solicitors.

At the centre of the dispute is a repossessed flat in West London and estimated lost equity of £35,000. There are unpaid bills, too.

When the couple bought the property it was agreed that Julia would meet household bills and council tax while John would be responsible for the mortgage and any spending on repairs or redecoration.

All went well for the first year or so until John's freelance graphic-design contracts dried up. However, John failed to tell his partner.

Julia, who is employed by a record company, says: "Each morning he would leave for work as usual and return at the normal time — early evening. If I needed to contact him, I rang the mobile."

While she worked, John idled away his mornings in the library and afternoons in the pub. Having given up on the search for a new job, he drank what little cash remained in his account and let the mortgage repayments slide.

"This went on for quite a while until I opened a letter from the building society. My head swam and my heart was pounding — they were threatening repossession because our arrears were so high," says Julia.

"When he came home I went ballistic — I had added up the figures and realised there was no way I could make up the money. When I called the building society I realised that our chances of hanging on to the flat were zero.

"When he came back and I confronted him, John just stood there shuffling his feet while I screamed, and stood there while I hit him. Then I just broke down and cried.

"I kept asking him why he had not told me — perhaps we could have worked something out before the arrears had grown so serious.

"He would not answer, and just bleated that we would keep the place somehow, something would turn up. There and then I lost all love and respect for him — how could he have betrayed me?"

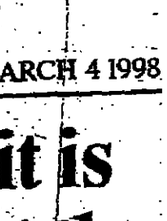
John, still unemployed and missing Julia "madly", is ashamed of his behaviour but cannot explain how he allowed their home to be repossessed. "I could not admit I was no longer a breadwinner. I believed Julia would think less of me.

"I see that it was crazy now — I have lost her and lost our home. When I do get a job though, I will make it up to Julia, whether she wants me back or not."

BILL FROST

The spirit is willing but the flesh is tasty

Nigella Lawson



There is something particularly delicious about the revelation that some 50 per cent of the nation's vegetarians are meat eaters on the sly, the Vegetarian Society's denial notwithstanding. Just as we relish the vicar's adultery, so we love evidence of the fall from much-hyped grace of the morally smug.

I am not sure, however, tempting though it is, that this is a fair way of looking at it. Vegetarians do not share one uniform identity any more than I am joined, by character or outlook, to other meat eaters by virtue of the fact that we do eat meat. And just as Orthodox Jews are more shocked by the liberal and assimilated contingent than by any form of Christian dissent, so real vegetarians must be more angered by the flaccid claims of the demi-veg brigade than ever they are by any of us.

I am a meat eater and I am incensed by those who piously claim to be vegetarian and then add, as if it meant anything, that they will eat white meat and fish sometimes. If you are going to take a moral line on this one, you have blown it. And, actually, those who have nothing against wringing the necks of chickens or plunging hooks into fish really do think that they are in some way morally purer for not eating "red meat". It is all very primitive, and silly, this moral scale based on the colour of the creature's flesh.

But I have a lot of sympathy for one group of recidivist vegetarians — those who fall for a bacon sandwich. When I once had a period of not eating meat (I can't remember why I did now) what I missed the most, and knew I couldn't live without, were bacon and sausages.

I suspect we would show greater kindness in the face of all these displays of lapsed vegetarianism if only vegetarians were more like Catholics in this regard. That is to say, Catholics are honest about the lure of what they seek to deny themselves: for them the moral act lies in self-deprivation. Vegetarians — or the most vocal group of them — make such a big deal of despising what they are purportedly giving up that they lose any claims to sympathy when it is revealed that, in fact, they lust after what they deny themselves no less than the lapsed, promiscuous Catholic. In fact, by refusing to acknowledge that the denial is self-denial, they rather lose much claim to moral action, too.

It is not anti-vegetarianism that motivates me here at all. Indeed, I am not anti-vegetarian. If eating meat revolted me, I would stop eating it instantly. I would never prevail upon anyone who preferred not to eat meat to stop. What I despise are the false claims — biological, scientific, moral — that dog the piously, self-regardingly green.

So even if I feel that many honest, committed vegetarians are slurred by this revelation of cheating meat-eating, I cannot really regret it.

Immunisation — who is alarming who?

BY NOW, several flimsy letters urging me to be wise and immunise have come and gone. When they arrive, I magnet them to the fridge, only to remove them a month or so after the date stamped eagerly on them has elapsed.

I can't pretend to have been making a medical, or rather anti-medical stand. My apparent scorning of these directives has nothing as lofty as principle behind it. The real explanation behind my failure to respond to them is more common: mere incompetence compounded by domestic, and other, overload. I just haven't been able to get it together. And because I'm not a single mother in a tower block, no one has been chasing me up or forcing me, chastened, to the baby clinic to face an admonitory needle and my own feckless ways.

But if I have been spending the last few months, apropos of this, feeling distractedly guilty, I now feel enormously relieved, positively rewarded for my inability to manage. The report in *The Lancet* of a possible link between the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine, colon disease and, more sinisterly, a new form of autism, one which causes hitherto developmentally normal children to regress, makes it hard for any parent to trip blithely down to the immunisation clinic.

You know me: I am not some anti-science freak; I believe in the blessings of orthodox medicine. But I don't believe it is wrong to question that which appears suspect. The Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jeremy Metters, appears to be doing his best to make us feel that even to raise doubts is to be irresponsible.

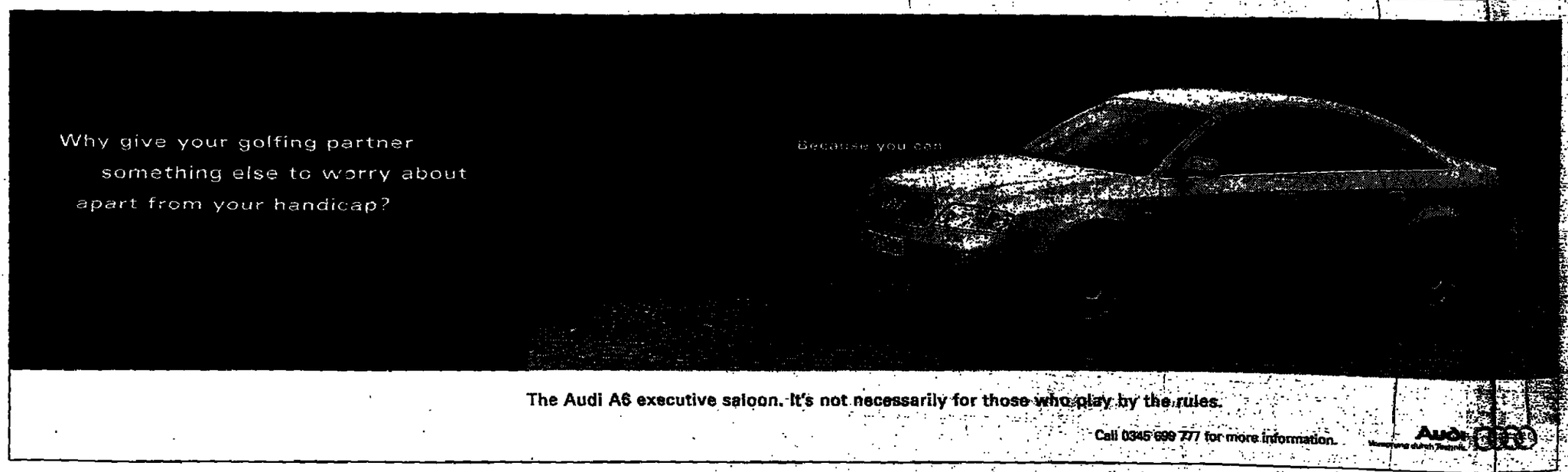
How can that be? Science itself is by way of being an attempted response to the questions posed by scientists. All inquiry has to proceed from a position of doubt.

I resent, too, the implication that those who are alarmed by these findings about the possible side effects of the MMR injection are putting their children in grave danger, and all for the most trivial considerations. Girls can be immunised separately against rubella (and boys against mumps) and, really, is measles indeed a killer disease?

I wonder who is being the more alarmist here: those who publicise their fears about this injection, or those who depict the untold horrors that will ensue if we refuse it.

ARTS

Right-Hon for the right-on: Culture Secretary Chris Smith tells of his plans to give special-interest music groups a government leg-up — Pages 34-36



The childcare dilemma



The Louise Woodward case, reopening on Friday, reminds every working mother of her daily juggling act. In the first of a two-day series, Celia Brayfield calls for society to make childcare a priority, and Sally Morris talks to a model about motherhood

The best piece of advice I ever received *about* motherhood was that the person who looked after my child while I was working should be the second most important adult in my life. Since I am a single parent, however, my childminder, au pair or nanny was *actually the* most important adult in my life for 12 years, until my daughter went to boarding school.

Raising the status of childminders was not a fashionable concept where we lived. "No wonder your nannies never want to leave. You're *nice* to them," sneered one of my friends. However, it worked. I kept my promises, worked around their English lessons, gave them responsibility and space, didn't exploit them, listened to their problems and, on one occasion, stood bail for one of their boyfriends. It was easier when I became my own boss and could devise my own working week.

Life wasn't all paella and pavlovas — our astrologically sophisticated nanny preferred to wait for a moon-in-Virgo day to tidy up the toys, and one of the Swiss au pairs pranged the car, but on the whole they were great girls, our experience of childcare was terrifically positive and we're still sending Christmas cards. If I had fully understood the cost, however, it might have deterred me from ever *becoming a parent*. Twelve years of good childcare cost £61,880; I certainly wasn't paying top dollar, and that figure included subsistence but not the cost of housing once I was earning enough to afford live-in help.

For the first five years my annual income was £20,000 or less. I was spending as much on my childminder as the mortgage. In that period the cost in lifestyle was also punitive; I didn't go out, a lot of friends disappeared. I had no dates with men. Since I adored my daughter, I considered it all well lost for her sake.

The only thing I really resent is the tax I paid on £61,880. That injustice often made me feel that I might as well have given up and lived on benefit. So why didn't I do it? Because I valued both my child and my work that much.

Plenty of people solve the problem with the same dedication and sacrifice without sinking £60,000 into their ability to work. My neighbours operated the traditional working-class model. The mother worked part-time, which allowed her to take her daughter to and from school. Her husband was a full-time electrician, and his sister and brother-in-law lived close by; all four adults arranged to take their holidays and days off serially in the school holidays to care for the children.

Each family got one week off together in a year. The system worked, but it required the co-operation of two stable couples who were all in stable employment, now a rare combination.

It's easy to get childcare right once you accept that you can't have a life as well as children. Since self-sacrifice is now considered psychologically sick and not at all cool, it's no surprise that women now put off having children as long as possible. What I find tragic is society's refusal to accept the importance of childcarers. There has been an official refusal to admit that for every two parents in full-time work, another person must be working to take care of their children, and that person is at least as entitled as the parents to respect and employment rights.

Employers have never been bothered about who looks after the employees of the future. They feel entitled to 14-hour days from temporary or non-contract workers too terrified of being fired to fight for time for their families.

Large companies may, grudgingly, turn over some dead space to a creche if they are having trouble recruiting female staff, but they resist utterly the idea that they have any joint responsibility for their workers' families.

Governments have always been more tax-orientated than child-orientated. The state persists in seeing childcare as a luxury which only privileged families will enjoy rather than a necessity for the welfare of all our future citizens.

As a result, the peak time for burglary is just after the schools come out, and middle-class childcare is probably the biggest black market in Britain and America. Remember the struggles of the Clinton Administration to recruit a high-flying female statesman who had never paid her nanny in cash?

Feminism should have cracked it, but instead childcare was where feminist theory ran aground. I have a hilarious memory of leaving a Chelsea consciousness-raising group when they started to discuss whether it was oppressing a sister to employ an au pair. I left then because the debate was getting nowhere; I was years away from motherhood and the issue meant nothing to me.

Now I can appreciate that this question is crucial and has never been resolved. Ultimately, feminism agreed with capitalism that whoever raised the children, it was still a low-paid, low-status non-job.

Feminists were so focused on getting women equal rights to education and opportunity that all mothers and childcarers ended up with was the equal right to be despised. Only briefly and half-heartedly did feminism try to persuade society that nurturing children is an important and valuable profession.

Childcare is an issue that we would really like to ignore. We see it as more "boring" — meaning insoluble — than Northern Ireland. Perhaps the present Government has got the message that looking after the children is not only the most vital aspect of keeping a parent in work, but also the most important factor in raising the next generation of good citizens.

At least there is now a national childcare policy in development, but what is needed is a major shift in our social value system. Plus extraordinary quantities of vision and common sense to make up for the fact that we've all been in denial here since the Industrial Revolution.

'I had a romantic notion about us having a baby'



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Betti and Sebastian Vince with their daughter, Arianna, aged five months. Sebastian had done a financial plan to see whether they could afford for Betti to stop modelling

Betti Romani has been a successful model since she was 15. Not in the Naomi Campbell league perhaps, but she has earned good money from prestigious jobs, flying around the world, with the freedom to drop everything to accept work whenever and wherever it was offered. But now Betti, 26, has a baby, Arianna, who at five months is still breastfeeding and sleeping in her parents' bed.

Betti and her partner, Sebastian Vince, a film advertising copywriter, have been together for two years. Physically and temperamentally they complement each other: Betti — tall, Italian, with thick dark curls, pipe-cleaner legs and fine cheekbones — is expressive and emotional; Sebastian — 27, smaller, fair — is calm and articulate. Their mutual attraction is tangible.

They knew they wanted a child within a few months of living together. Betti could see herself as a mother of four, confidently nurturing a brood of happy infants. That was before Arianna. In reality, Betti, like many women, has found the early days of motherhood confusing, exhausting, lonely and frustrating, yet she is filled with a terrifying and overwhelming love indescribable to those who have not experienced parenthood.

"I felt quite relaxed about giving up work," she says. "I enjoyed the money and travelling but I was ready for a change and I had a romantic notion about us having a baby. But it has been much harder than I imagined. She was 2½ weeks overdue and I was in labour for 36 hours, but when she was born I thought my life was just beginning.

"The isolation is the worst thing. Sometimes when I'm in these four walls all day I don't know who I am. Breastfeeding takes so much out of me and makes Arianna so dependent on me. I love her and want to care for her myself but sometimes I would like time to do something on my own."

Betti and Sebastian live in a first-floor flat in North London, and although Sebastian's family live locally, they are all busy with their own lives and the couple does not rely on them for practical support. Betti's family are all in Italy and her friends in this country are childless.

"I went to the health centre to meet other mothers but we all just talked about our babies and after a while I found it a bit boring. Now I go out every day, but mainly to the park. I used to take Arianna on the Tube to meet Sebastian for lunch but I don't do that much now. He is so busy."

It is a stark contrast to the environment in which Betti grew up. Because of an extended family, her mother could work while Betti was cared for mainly by her grandmother; relatives were always around to help.

Yet Betti is still determined to bring Arianna up herself rather than going straight back to work. The couple were prepared for the drop in income because Sebastian had done a financial plan to see whether they could afford for Betti to stop modelling. She finished when she was six months pregnant and has worked for just two days since the birth.

Her agency still calls her for castings, and in the early weeks she strapped the baby to her newly expanded bosom and travelled by Tube to sit in rooms full of chain-smoking Morticia Addams lookalikes, who gazed in fascination at her designer accessory.

But Betti soon became disillusioned about the possibility of modelling again. "It's almost impossible for me to work. The agency doesn't like me to take her and I don't have anywhere I can leave her, so I don't do it.

"I sort of enjoyed it on the days I did work; it was nice to be out on my own, but my mind was on the baby all the time. And I was so tired because Arianna had been waking up for feeding in the night and I had to be up at six, with dark shadows under my eyes. Sebastian took time off work to look after her but it took me so much time to explain where everything was and what needed doing that I worried I had forgotten to tell him something. It almost wasn't worth it."

Her return to modelling was not without its compensations, however. Like many fathers before him, Sebastian's introduction to the daily grind of parenthood brought a Damascene revelation: it is hard, it is dirty, and it makes running an office look like child's play.

"I couldn't keep anything together except looking after Arianna," says Sebastian. "When Betti came home the place was a tip. There were nappies everywhere, I hadn't managed to wash up and I didn't know where the time had gone.

"I used to think Betti was at home having fun, fulfilling all her natural maternal instincts, while I had all the stress of working in an office to support my family. But I realise now how Betti's life has changed and how hard it is for her. I've always done the cooking but I've now insisted that we get a cleaning lady in to help. But the emotional side is harder."

Betti and Sebastian agreed to be filmed for a BBC2 Education series, *Having It All*, which follows various couples as they approach and experience childbirth and its aftermath. The other three women in the episode have all returned to work for various reasons, financial and emotional, and Betti accepts that she may go back part-time if she can find a system of childcare that she trusts. You sense that for Betti, with her background of extended family help, that will be a difficult transition.

"Despite the problems, I am very happy now and there has never been a moment when I have thought I would like to be single or childless again," says Betti. "My role is to be at home at the moment but sometimes I would just like the option to do something else, just the choice. I suppose I just want to have my cake and eat it."

She smiles her glorious cover girl smile and clamps a wailing Arianna firmly back to her breast.

SALLY MORRIS

● Having It All *starts with* Late Arrivals *on BBC2 on Tuesday, March 10. Betti, Sebastian and Arianna appear in* You, Me and the Baby *on Thursday, March 12, at 9.30pm*

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Dictatorship of the concordat

Michael Ancram on the muzzling of the legislature by the executive

The concordat, despite its friendly name, is a shadowy and sinister animal. It has suddenly appeared, not in statute where Parliament might examine its physiology and temperament, but in ministerial speeches, trumpeted as a simple means of resolving anomalies arising out of constitutional reform.

Important questions remain unanswered. Are these concordats intended to be a new constitutional mechanism or are they just another manifestation of the abuse of new-found executive power?

A concordat, we are assured, will pre-empt bitter inward investment disputes between Scotland, Wales and England. Backroom deals will apparently be struck between the DTI, the Scottish executive and Welsh assembly — and, possibly, the regions of England — regulating vital commercial practices, all without reference to Parliament. A concordat will also fulfil White Paper pledges that Scottish administration and Welsh executive committee members will enjoy direct participation, and sometimes even lead, UK delegations to the European Union Council of Ministers. Concordats may even be invoked to regulate financial resources for the component parts of the United Kingdom, even though such allocations are voted by Parliament.

> Concordats may appear friendly. They are anything but

We know little about these concordats other than that some are apparently already in draft, many are between parties not yet in existence, and all are beyond the control of the House of Commons. We are informed that they will not be legally binding, enforceable or subject to parliamentary scrutiny. In practice, they will probably be limited to the lifetime of a government. They will almost certainly be unilaterally revocable, and thus, in terms of reliance, worth little. Yet they are presented as a powerful government tool.

These non-statutory concordats are anything but a secure base upon which to construct balanced constitutional reform. The important arrangements which they will cover should be achieved through primary legislation or enabled in secondary legislation. A wise and much-loved saying of the late Lord Home was that "if a man tells you his word is as good as his bond you should always take his bond". Yet here is an unclear word and no sign of a legislative bond at all.

Scotland and Wales are being asked to sign up to considerable change and risk on the basis of informal, unenforceable deals between undefined and transient parties. References to the sale of birthrights can rarely have been so apposite.

My concerns go much further than this, however. The adoption of these concordats is a further example of the Government's attempts to exercise power immune from Parliament. They will be made to appear friendly. They are anything but.

Concordats find precedent (in principle if not detail) in the way in which the US President has historically circumvented the constitutional requirement that he secure the agreement of two-thirds of the Senate to make a treaty. Instead, the President makes "executive agreements", that is between governments, rather than countries. Between 1980 and 1985 nearly 2,000 executive agreements were made, compared with just over 100 treaties.

There could hardly be a more stark illustration of how executives can bypass legislatures. Where powers are separated, as in America, such developments are perhaps part of the evolution of their constitution. They are, however, still matters of dispute.

In Britain, where there is no division between the executive and the legislature, this is a dangerous development. Taken with the present moves in the Human Rights Bill to politicise our judiciary, and thus to bypass Parliament, concordats are an even more insidious development.

The much proclaimed concordat on regulating regional incentives aimed at inward investment will not be the product of democratic discussion, but of deals done in smoke-filled rooms. The concordats governing the provision of resources made by Westminster to the Scottish executive and the Welsh assembly will be the result of trade-offs between different levels of government behind closed doors. These will not be calculations of relative need but political bargains, often struck to buy off the threat of trouble. These potentially cynical concordats will carry within them the seeds of resentment that could break up the United Kingdom.

Most worrying of all, however, will be the concordats agreeing the roles of Wales and Scotland within the Councils of Europe. The White Papers promise direct participation in the Council of Ministers. Without parliamentary approval, the concordats will apparently permit a minister of the Scottish administration — and possibly a member of the Welsh executive committee — to participate in a United Kingdom delegation. He could speak for the United Kingdom. He could vote for the United Kingdom. But he could not answer to or be called to account by the United Kingdom, for he would hold no democratic mandate from its electorate.

In history it is often the simple and expedient constitutional device that turns out to carry the greatest oppression. In these concordats we have an instrument of which Henry VIII would have been proud. Cromwell would have taken grim satisfaction in the exercise of such power.

These concordats will undermine the sovereignty of Parliament and the sovereignty of the people. We must strive to ensure that they are stillborn.

The author is Tory spokesman on constitutional affairs.



Playing Saddam's game

The West must leave Iraq; our sanctions, ships and speeches only aid its tyrant

British policy on Iraq is slithering from senseless sabre-rattling to incoherence. Monday's United Nations Security Council resolution offered President Saddam Hussein "the severest consequences" if he does not stick to the deal agreed last week with Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, which he pointedly refused to sign himself. The resolution appeared to reinforce UN firmness in handling Saddam. It did the opposite. The British and American Governments sought "automaticity" to bomb Saddam when they choose. They failed. They are correspondingly less able to rely on the old Resolution 687 of 1991 for authority to bomb. They have emerged from the crisis weaker than before. Saddam is therefore stronger. This is ludicrous.

Saddam must this morning be contemplating a satisfying scenario that he could scarcely have imagined in 1991. Here is a tinpot tyrant who had lost a war of aggression against a neighbour. With a taste for dangerous chemicals and a lack of scruple towards friend and enemy alike, he is loathed by most of his countrymen and has no overseas allies. Yet he has conjured a vast British and American fleet off his coast, their guns spiked by his diplomats. He has Kofi Annan coming to tea. He has cowboy weapons inspectors falling out with each other as he leads them a dance round his country.

Russian and Chinese diplomats hang on his every word. French and German salesmen await his nod. The world's media are camped at his door. As long as this continues, Saddam is a hero of the Arab world. For light amusement he can now tweak the inspectors' tails at any time of his choosing, and watch pandemonium at the UN. Americans and British fight with Russians and Chinese over the who, where, why and when of bombing. Saddam has achieved the almost unthinkable. He has reopened the diplomatic Cold War.

The American and British policy of blustering threats against Iraq must be the stupidest pursued by any major power in modern times. It has achieved nothing except the boosting of Saddam's prestige and the impoverishment of the Iraqi people. The latest crisis appears not to have dismantled a single chemical weapon, assuming such weapons (rather than stockpiles) exist. An immoral policy, to bomb without military objective, has been exchanged for an immoral retreat. There was no regional or UN support for the American and British sabre-rattling. The Annan trip to Baghdad emphasised that fact, confirming the UN's impotence in enforcing Resolution 687.

Last week and this, the Foreign Office has had to oversell the Annan deal. Robin Cook claimed yesterday that Saddam had finally conceded "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access". But to what? He conceded access in 1991. The bone of contention are the eight presidential palaces suspected of being arms dumps. The relevant paragraph of the new deal foresees only "the finalisation of procedures for presidential sites". These sites, listed in the annexe, are to be the job of a "special team" with diplomats in attendance and answerable not to the Unscom inspectors, hated by Saddam, but directly to the Secretary-General. On CNN on Monday an enraged former inspector took the Unscom boss, Richard Butler, to the cleaners on this point. Mr Butler is a tough operator but he has been neutered by the Annan deal.

The reason for the overselling is plain. Today's most ardent "doves" are yesterday's most blood-thirsty "hawks". The pro-bombing lobby is trapped. One minute it is hollering like Great War recruiting sergeants. Saddam is another Hitler, threatening an imminent holocaust across the Middle East. He and his "weapons of mass destruction" must be exterminated or, in President Clinton's words, "the security of all of us" is threatened. We could not stand idly by. Though there was confusion over targeting — weapons sites or not weapons sites, palaces or not palaces, Saddam or not Saddam — the lobby agreed that bombing was the only deterrent sufficiently majestic to bring political upheaval to Iraq. The reason for the vast armada now assembled in the Gulf was, in some vague sense, the removal of Saddam.

Eight weeks on, Saddam is still in power, large as life, twice as famous and three times as ugly. The bombing lobby is now in the absurd position of having to plead his sincerity. "We have an agreement in writing," boasted Mr Cook yesterday. "Our strategy has been vindicated." If the point of force is to "add value" to diplomacy, then the diplomacy must be seen as successful. Hence the Foreign Secretary's belief that he has secured "a diplomatic solution to the confrontation". Saddam has miraculously changed his spots — or is on the brink of doing so. He has seen the virtue of the UN inspection regime.

Simon Jenkins

His weapons of mass destruction will be dismantled. The opposition is rising against him. Who knows but that Saddam will soon form a power-sharing coalition with Kurds and Marsh Arabs and offer himself to one-member-one-vote election. New Labour, new Saddam. And all thanks to the RAF.

Mr Cook believes that Saddam would be "most unwise" to ignore the lesson of the past week. True, but what lesson? I find it inconceivable that Britain and America could go back to bombing Saddam in present circumstances. The Annan deal leaves open a dozen ways in which he can delay and obfuscate, whether or not he really wishes to continue making his ghastly weapons. He can simply play cat and mouse. Every single admission of inspectors to "palaces" will be subject to negotiation. Mr Cook says that the UN resolution in no way affects Britain's freedom to bomb under Resolution 687 (1991). That thesis was flatly contradicted by the French yesterday. Britain and America asked their UN colleagues for discretion to bomb and were denied it. To claim now that they do not need permission will not wash. All hell would break loose at the UN if the bombers went in.

We are back to square one, but with the embarrassment that British forces are sitting in the Gulf, inert and in UN shackles. The fall-back defence of the present policy, that keeping troops in place indefinitely "contains" and thus "weakens" Saddam, is mere spin-doctoring. Such containment has not worked in Iraq for seven years, any more than it works in Iran, Libya or Cuba. Nothing so bolsters a dictatorial regime as economic and military siege. Military threats backed by inadequate UN authority fuel Saddam's megalomania. Economic sanctions impoverish his people, but not so he cares. They enrich his cronies and support his power base. They make ordinary Iraqis hate the West and thank Saddam for each morsel of bread allowed them in the ration.

Tony Blair and Mr Cook must summon all their dignity and do the sensible thing, which is to bring the troops home. They must disregard the truth and declare victory and peace in our time. The troops will leave behind a man whose position was strengthened by their presence and will be further strengthened by their departure. But only for a while. The best hope for the Middle East, and for the Iraqi people, is for the West to remove its obscene impedimenta of aircraft carriers and missiles and economic sanctions and UN resolutions and useless threats and meaningless diplomacy. They don't work.

There was only ever one way to end "the threat of Saddam and his weapons of mass destruction" and that was to go back to war with him, properly, with real soldiers on the ground. If he really is the Hitler portrayed by Western propaganda, if Mr Clinton is right and Saddam constitutes a menace of global dimensions, then he will be beaten only by generals prepared to take their tanks to his bunker door.

Saddam is not Hitler. Nor are Britain and the United States prepared to wage total war on him. They are not fooled by their own propaganda. The past two months have presented an episode of guff, machismo and sham. Thank goodness it is over. Saddam will fall in his own time at the hands of his own countrymen. We can best speed that process by ending trade sanctions, by not aiding opposition groups (who are promptly executed) and by withdrawing our troops — and the sooner, the better. For the moment, it is not Saddam's sincerity that is in question, but our own.

Chinook and the cover-up

Tom Pocock wants the Mull of Kintyre crash re-examined

This morning the House of Commons Defence Select Committee meets John Reid, the Minister for the Armed Forces, to repeat a familiar question and probably hear a predictable reply. It will be about the crash of the Chinook helicopter on the Mull of Kintyre in June, 1994, which killed 25 of the most important intelligence officers in Northern Ireland. It was the most devastating "own goal" scored by the Armed Forces since the Second World War.

The MPs will want to know why the responsible air marshals overruled their own court of inquiry to find the helicopter's two pilots guilty of "gross negligence". This brutal verdict flew in the face of the RAF's own regulation which states that deceased aircrew should not be blamed for negligence without conclusive evidence and there was none.

This was no ordinary aircrew: the captain, Flight Lieutenant Jonathan Tapper, commanded the Special Forces Flight in Northern Ireland, which operates secretly often at night and almost at ground level; his co-pilot, Flight Lieutenant Rick Cook, was also regarded as being in the top 5 per cent of all RAF pilots.

Later a Fatal Accident Inquiry in Scotland found that no blame could be attached to the pilots, yet the air marshals persisted. Why did they subject the bereaved families of the two young officers to this savage and unsubstantiated verdict?

If the Ministry of Defence runs true to form, it will trot out a familiar reply. The pilots chose the wrong course and rate of climb and, instead of turning, or climbing away from the great headland, flew into low cloud and slap into the hillside. As other pilots see it, they stand accused of committing suicide and murdering their passengers.

Will the Defence Committee accept this? They may not want to spend time on an old accident when there are more important matters to worry about. There are politicians, civil servants and air marshals who want to silence the nagging voices.

They will not be able to do so. Banquo's ghost will still hover by their Whitehall desks. As the realisation grows that an injustice has been done, more minds are being changed. Four former Defence Ministers, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, James Arbuthnot and Sir Jeremy Hanley have all been urged that the case should be reopened and Lord Gilmour has begun to ask questions. All parties are involved, notably Martin O'Neill for Labour, Robert Key for the Tories and Menzies Campbell for the Liberal Democrats; Lord Chalfont has rallied support in the Lords.

They, too, have been met with the stock reply, or by silence. But now some of those involved with events and decisions leading up to those terrible seconds over the Scottish hills are stepping forward. Two of them are Malcolm Perks and Robert Burke: the former, the leading authority on the FADEC computer system, which controls helicopter engines; the latter, a recently retired squadron leader and former helicopter test pilot, who probably knows more about Chinooks than anyone else. They are convinced an injustice has been done.

Squadron Leader Burke has now said that pilot error, let alone negligence, must be the least likely cause of the crash. He has suggested three other possible causes, all supported by evidence from the crash site that was available to the RAF.

One, with which Malcolm Perks agrees, is that a fault in the controlling computer could have caused an engine "runaway", a sudden surge of power that destabilised the helicopter and threw it out of control. Burke quotes the RAF's own findings in the wreckage to show that the helicopter was out of control when it crashed. The position of the rudder controls indicate that it was; indeed, it was probably yawing and vibrating so violently that the pilots would have been unable to read the control dials.

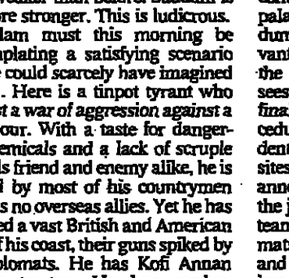
Another is a fault in the helicopter's mechanics. A linking arm and spring in a package known as "the broom cupboard" might have "pulled out" and caused a jam. This was a recognised possibility and had already occurred in the Chinook that crashed. The third is the mystery of fragments of fabric found twisted through the wreckage of the engine.

In 1994 the test pilots at the Boscombe Down research and development establishment had doubts about the safety of the Chinook Mark 2, the type that crashed, and which has since been modified. The suggestion is that the RAF was aware of this but, because of operational necessity, ordered that it must go into squadron service. After the crash, embarrassing questions were avoided by putting the blame squarely on the dead pilots.

So far the air marshals have successfully fended off questioning politicians and convinced ministers of both this Government and the last that their flawed case is viable. Former Conservative ministers are now having second thoughts. It is to be hoped that those now sitting at the same desks will also think again.

The author's latest book Battle for Empire *is published next month.*

Dark princes



PETER MANDELSON, political manipulator *par excellence*, is due to come face-to-face with a real-life Machiavelli. The Minister without Portfolio, oft credited with undermining Tony Blair's opponents by stealth, has been invited to "Machiavelli at 500", a seminar to mark the quincentenary of the appointment of Niccolò Machiavelli (pictured with Mandelson) as second chancellor and secretary of the Florentine Republic. Three of the arch-conspirator's descendants, including the Contessa Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, president of Italy's Party Attitivà, will share the platform.





The gathering at Manchester Metropolitan University in May will mull over "the use of Machiavellian tactics in spin-doctoring". Among the papers to be discussed will be *Is Peter Mandelson worthy to be called the prince of darkness?*. In recognition of the fine work carried out for Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, by Charlie Whelan, his spin-doctor, the seminar will also chew over *Nicco and Charlie: a story of two political servants and their times.*

A shadowy figure behind Mandelson says: "The invitation will be considered favourably and he will try to attend." I urge him to do so: a line from Machiavelli's work encourages me to think the minister behind Blair's throne will find the event particularly pertinent: "One has to remark that men ought either to be well treated or crushed, because they can avenge themselves of lighter injuries, of more serious ones they cannot."

● *NOW we know why Blair gave Baroness Jay the health portfolio in the Lords. In a written reply, she declared: "Death cannot be prevented indefinitely."*

Table turned

POOR Nicholas Soames. The venerable MP for Mid Sussex has dropped a scheme that saved him thousands of pounds in tax after concerted stalking by Mark Thomas, the left-wing televisual comedian. Soames has avoided paying inheritance tax on family heirlooms, some passed down from Sir Winston Churchill, his grandfather, by promising to "allow the public reasonable access".

As a test, Thomas took the former Defence Minister up on his pledge and asked formally to view a £20,000 buffet. Soames responded by organising a private viewing at Christie's. The anarchic comedian then turned up with 60 friends wearing "Nicholas Soames three-tier buffet appreciation society" badges and a camera crew.

After the kerfuffle, Soames promptly withdrew the table from public view for good, citing "administrative difficulties". He has since had to pay £8,000 in tax. Thomas, who reveals all this evening on Channel 4, says: "I feel guilty that a former Tory minister and member of the Establishment might have to pay some tax."

● *IF YOU come across a plastic file containing pictures of men with bouffant hair strutting about in bell-bottoms, you could be £2,000 better off. Arlene Phillips, the director of* Saturday Night Fever, *opening at the Palladium in May, has lost her pre-production file for the musical and is offering a reward to anyone who hands it back. "The file contained a script, some of the score, costume designs and research about the Seventies," she tells me. I wish Phillips the best of luck, after all I wouldn't want the actor taking over from John Travolta (left) to put a foot wrong.*



Bare effrontery

SNOOZING gentlemen at one of the Duke of Kent's preferred London clubs face a rude awakening; women shrieking as Chippendale types do the full monty. A strip joint is due to open next door to the Oriental Club, founded in the glory days of Empire. Though it is awaiting permission, the Volante is advertising its naughty shows in magazines. But the Oriental, where the Duke (aka Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge) likes to dine with his chums, is trying to stop the venture. I hope they reach a neighbourly compromise.

● *NEIL HAMILTON, the disgraced, former Tory MP for Tatton, had special reason to delight in Mohamed Al Fayed's brush with the law: "Jack Straw would have to deport him if he were ever charged and found guilty."*

Cash leg-up

THE aid of Darcey Bussell, the beauteous ballerina (right), and other fine dancers is being sought to campaign for a bronze statue of Dame Margot Fonteyn to be erected in Battersea Square. The Royal Academy of Dancing needs to raise £200,000 to accomplish its aim of building a permanent memorial to the former prima ballerina who died in 1991 and is remembered for her legendary partnership with Rudolf Nureyev. A large ballet shoe says: "I'm sure the likes of Ms Bussell will help to persuade the powers-that-be."



EDWARD WELSH



BLOODSHED IN ILLYRIA

Kosovo could reignite flames in the Balkans

The brutal assaults by Serb riot police on demonstrators in Kosovo put peace in the Balkans once again at risk. An explosion in Kosovo has always had the potential to spill over into Albania to the southwest and to fracture the fragile political balance in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, where ethnic Albanians form a large and fractious minority. Trouble there could draw in almost every actor in the southern Balkans, including Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece. No region of former Yugoslavia inspires greater anxiety in Nato. The assertion by the Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, that this is an internal matter must firmly and swiftly be countered.

Serbs consider Kosovo the birthplace of their nation, but they form a small minority in the province. It was there, on the site of the Serbs' 14th-century defeat by the Ottoman Turks, that Mr Milosevic lit the fuse of Serbian ultra-nationalism a decade ago, with a populist tirade railing against the ethnic Albanians whose Illyrian ancestors were its earliest known settlers and who form 90 per cent of its current population. In 1989, he proceeded to strip Kosovo of the autonomy guaranteed under Tito's highly decentralised federal constitution of 1974, to dissolve its government and assembly and place it under martial law. These actions reawakened fears of Serb irredentism in Yugoslavia's other republics and precipitated the country's bloody dismemberment.

Throughout the fighting in Croatia and Bosnia, Kosovo was tense but relatively quiet — a tribute to the moderate Kosovar leader, Ibrahim Rogova. Elected by an overwhelming majority in 1992, in voting which Belgrade declared illegal, he has persisted, under severe provocation, in combining peaceable campaigns of civil disobedience with a search for a negotiated solution, including the restoration of political autonomy, to his people's grievances.

Mr Milosevic has preferred to maintain power by fear and arbitrary arrest, maintaining 45,000 Serb police and paramilitary in Kosovo and countenancing no more than sporadic talks. The failure to implement the one agreement reached, on education in the Albanian language, indicates that these talks were a sop to international pressure and never intended to yield serious compromise. Serb stubbornness, mixed with repression, has hardened Kosovar support for full independence and fed support for the separatist guerrilla Kosovo Liberation Army, whose attack on Serb police, Belgrade claims, provoked the weekend's punitive raids in which at least 20 villagers, including a pregnant woman, were butchered by Serb forces. Monday's demonstration by 30,000 people was suppressed with extreme brutality.

The West, which was planning further to relax the remaining sanctions on the Yugoslav federal republic, must now alter course. These sanctions still have teeth, in particular the denial of Yugoslav access to international loans; America has hinted that they could be toughened. Robin Cook has added Belgrade to his planned Bosnian itinerary this week. There is time to step up pressure for a political settlement; Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Albania are united, as some of them might not have been a few years ago, in anxiety to contain this crisis.

As for Mr Milosevic, despite his past record it seems more likely that undisciplined forces badly mishandled an increasingly tense situation than that he deliberately incited the violence. Contemptuous as he has often been of such considerations, a war in Kosovo would be a disastrous drain on an already crippled economy. Since few Serbs want to live in Kosovo, civil peace could yet be restored by restoring the local self-government lost in 1989, in return for international pledges not to countenance Kosovan independence. But time is not unlimited; ethnic unrest in the Balkans could spiral, once again, out of control.

ART AT ARM'S LENGTH

Smith should resist the urge to meddle

"An enthusiastic and ambitious Minister wishes to direct the arts," wrote Lord Goodman, former chairman of the Arts Council, in his memoirs. Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, should go on to read Lord Goodman's caveat. "Between him and that direction is a large independent body of people who rate him as a useful animal for finding money, respect him if he finds it in greater abundance than hitherto, but have no real use for his views on artistic matters."

Mr Smith is a cultured man. He knows his Schubert from his Schumann. Perhaps because he has views on artistic matters, though, he cannot resist intervening in areas of his department which ought to be free from ministerial meddling. In an interview on our Arts pages today, the minister calls for the Arts Council to spend more money on jazz and world music. Such exhortation may sound trivial, but it is symptomatic of an unhealthy desire to direct.

Being the minister responsible for the arts is understandably frustrating. Each night that he attends an opera, ballet, play or concert, he is regaled by "luvvies" complaining about their paltry grants. Yet all that he can do is negotiate once a year with the Treasury for a block grant to the Arts Council; it is the council that decides how the money is then distributed.

There is, however, sense in this. Politicians should respect the "arm's-length" principle, not just because it guarantees freedom from censorship. Whatever Mr Smith's knowledge of romantic poetry — for which he won his doctorate — he is no Lorenzo de' Medici. He is no better qualified to pick winners than are his colleagues at the Department of Trade and Industry. Yet, perhaps because the Arts Council has been rudderless for eight months now, Mr Smith has been too often tempted to jump in and steer. It was he who announced the review of London's opera provision without even consulting the council, which had already decided to conduct a review itself. It was he who chose the new chairman of the Royal Opera House. But, as for being "a useful animal for finding money", he has failed to prevent the arts budget being substantially cut. If jazz is to be financed, it will be at the expense of classical music, which is already so precariously funded that one London orchestra is likely soon to fold.

Mr Smith has exhibited the same interventionist instincts with the lottery distributors. Under the Conservatives, the organisations that gave out the money to good causes were only instructed to respond to whatever requests the public made and to ensure that the money was spent on supporting the public good. Now they have been asked to be more strategic and to solicit applications. But that, of course, requires a strategy, and Mr Smith is keen to direct those strategies too.

Mr Smith's instincts may be good ones. Much of what he has proposed, both for the arts and the lottery, happens to make sense. But he is creating a precedent that may be exploited by less benign successors. And he may not even be doing himself good. The more he meddles, the more he will be blamed. The Culture Secretary will soon discover that the arm's-length principle is as good at protecting politicians from the arts as it is at protecting the arts from politicians.

CRACKS ON THE LINE

Corners cannot be cut with rail safety

Once again Railtrack is attempting to shrug off blame. The leaked letter from the Health and Safety Executive warning the company that Britain's rail network is, in some cases, "in such an extremely bad condition as to be unsafe" could hardly be more blunt. Railtrack, it suggests, is guilty of almost culpable negligence: it has on some occasions failed to carry out repairs promised after earlier incidents; it has insisted that it is spending more than ever before on maintenance, yet it is failing to use over £270 million of the money allocated; and it is not making the effort needed to ensure that deficiencies in track condition are properly identified and effectively remedied.

The letter makes shocking reading. But little appears to shock Railtrack nowadays. The company response has been lame and bland. It has repeatedly insisted that the network it inherited from British Rail was in such poor condition that it is still struggling with the backlog. The Health and Safety Executive has given notice that it will not listen to such a self-serving excuse again. At the same time Railtrack says that it is spending money as fast as it can but is unable to undertake more projects than the structure can absorb. Spokesmen maintain that it is already taking "significant steps" to improve the track system and that there are no big differences with the safety inspectors.

This is hardly credible. It has now been four years since Railtrack took over responsibility for Britain's railways, and already two since the company was privatised. In that time the warnings about safety have grown ever more frequent: from the rail unions, whose experience cannot be simply dismissed as entrenched union interests; from independent rail experts and former BR executives; and from those who have investigated derailments and apportioned blame.

The problem, it is generally agreed, lies in the company's failure to manage its business properly. To cut costs, and following the philosophy that competition increases efficiency, Railtrack subcontracts most of its routine maintenance. The successful bidders in turn subcontract elements of the project. Virtually no one in senior management is directly answerable for the work carried out; inspection and quality control become very difficult to enforce.

The Government is increasingly impatient with such arcane structures. Safety inspectors are already concerned by the failure of many rail managers in the 25 train operating companies to listen to safety recommendations. The attempts to cut costs and corners have led to such ludicrous proposals as recruiting passengers to act as voluntary train guards. Privatisation was a means to inject much needed capital into the 11,000-mile network; it was never a charter to exploit local or national monopolies at the expense of standards or safety. Britain's railways, when in state control, were among the safest in the world. Private stewardship should be no less exacting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Double standards on Iraq and Israel

From Sir Cyril Townsend, Director of CAABU

Sir, Your leading article today, headed "False equivalence: Iraq and Israel are not comparable", is misleading on a number of fronts. The issue of whether the US is guilty of double standards when dealing with Iraq and Israel is not dependent on proving that there is a balance of evil between the two states. It is an issue of enforcing international law and Security Council resolutions, whatever the form of government.

The United States not only does not demand that Israel comply with these resolutions, it actively ensures that it does not have to. Arab anger might be at least assuaged if there was any kind of attempt from Washington to get Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab lands and obey international law. Those who demand that Israel should be brought to heel have not all been demanding that US aircraft carriers park themselves off Tel Aviv.

The argument that Israel is still surrounded by hostile states bristling with weapons of mass destruction is also misleading. Both Egypt and Jordan have signed peace treaties and it is Israel that has developed an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, including over 200 nuclear weapons. The military balance of power is very much in its favour.

Israel's right to exist should not come at the expense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the continuing occupation of other countries' land, including 10 per cent of Lebanon.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL TOWNSEND,
Director, CAABU
(Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding),
21 Collingham Road, SW5 0NU.
March 2.

From Professor Vernon Bogdanor, FBA

Sir, Menzies Campbell's letter (February 27) would be more persuasive if it were more even-handed. The Oslo accords do not impose unilateral obligations upon Israel, but obligations upon both Israel and the Palestinians.

The Palestinians, however, have yet to fulfil their commitment, undertaken at Oslo, to complete the amendment of the Palestinian National Covenant which declares, *inter alia*, that "the establishment of Israel is fundamentally null and void", and labels Zionism a "nazi" doctrine.

In addition, the Palestinians are committed, both under the Oslo accords and the Hebron protocol of January 1997, to prevent incitement and hostile propaganda. Yet, since the signature of the protocol, Israel has been accused of injecting Palestinians with the Aids virus and poisoning Palestinian food products.

It would be unrealistic to expect the Israeli Government to sign further agreements until existing Palestinian commitments have been fulfilled. By ignoring this factor, Menzies Campbell is in danger of strengthening those Israeli hardliners who argue that the negotiating process is pointless since the Palestinian Authority will never fulfil its obligations.

Incidentally, Menzies Campbell's apparent belief that Arab states will not support action against Saddam Hussein unless Israel makes further concessions is implausible. The Arab world participated in the 1991 coalition before the peace process had even begun. It is a grave error to believe that all the problems in the Middle East arise out of the Arab/Israeli conflict.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford OX1 4AJ.
February 27.

From Mr Michael Green

Sir, The "cynicism of Arab nations and their citizens" to which Mr Menzies Campbell refers is most clearly shown in their willingness to call for the enforcement of international law as long as it is not they themselves who have to submit to this law. It is their cynical failure to enforce basic law and order against those who have actively disrupted the peace process which has given Israel no choice but to hold off further implementation of the Oslo accords.

Israel cannot afford to make any mistakes in respect of its security, unlike most other nations who live securely within their borders.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GREEN,
45 Belsize Road,
Swiss Cottage, NW6 4RX.
February 27.

Gilt-edged banking?

From Mr William Harmer

Sir, I have recently received an invitation — one of many such "mailshots" — to apply for a Visa gold card.

However, this one bore an interesting difference; it was addressed simply to "The Occupier", and informed him that he had been "specially selected".

In these days of massively overextended credit, can this really be regarded as responsible banking?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HARMER,
Barnfield Farm,
Hullavington, nr Chippenham,
Wiltshire SN14 6DR.
March 2.

Shortage of volunteers to take help to nations in need

From the Director of Voluntary Service Overseas

Sir, In the light of VSO's falling application figures, your leading article, "Invisible Service Overseas" (February 27), suggests a number of practical ways that we could adapt our efforts to recruit new volunteers. You suggest targeting employers for "pledges" guaranteeing volunteers jobs on their return to the UK and a more flexible approach to volunteer recruitment.

These ideas are indeed central to VSO's future. Already we have agreed employee leave of absence schemes with over 80 NHS health trusts which recognise the practical professional benefits of working overseas. An innovative programme of short-term placements has also been introduced for the skilled people who are particularly hard to recruit, such as GPs and English teachers.

VSO works with employers in some of the world's poorest communities. It is the increasing demands from these employers for more volunteers that makes our recruitment-shortfall figures so alarming. Clearly we need to raise our profile, but surely not at the expense of the skills and experience that have already made such a difference to the lives of people, both in developing countries and at home.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GREEN,
Director, VSO,
317 Putney Bridge Road, SW15 2PN.
March 2.

From Dr Natalie Smith

Sir, I qualified as a doctor five years ago and am currently undergoing specialist training. I realised a long-term dream and took six months off work this year to be able to work and travel in the developing world. I then applied to various aid agencies, including VSO, the British Red Cross, and Médecins Sans Frontières. To my great surprise, I was turned down by all of them.

The main problem seemed to be the length of time I was willing to commit — six months was not long enough. It also seems that I have now become too specialised to be a generalist, but am not advanced enough to be sent anywhere as a specialist.

I have not lost out. I leave for Africa next week, having arranged an independent schedule by myself. It is the aid agencies who have lost a willing and able volunteer.

Yours faithfully,
NATALIE SMITH,
12 Christopher Lodge,
9 Avenue Road, N6 5DL.
idslitd@btinternet.com
March 2.

From Mr J. J. Burlison

Sir, It was sad to read that VSO support is 22 per cent down on earlier years. At the other end of the age scale, the British Executive Service Overseas (BESO), with volunteers of an average age of 58, has sufficient numbers but can always take in more. Perhaps we benefit from an age group who realised the good effects of assistance work overseas in their earlier years with VSO.

We are a smaller organisation than VSO, part-funded by the private sector, with some 3,000 volunteers registered at present. Most are retired, but all have skills and expertise which they are prepared to offer without salary to developing countries. At present we deploy about 600 volunteers annually on short-term consultancies in some 90 countries, and with increased funding this figure could rise.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURLISON
(Regional director), British Executive Service Overseas,
164 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
London SW1V 2RB.
February 27.

From Mrs Sarah Prince

Sir, I am not surprised there is a lack of volunteers for VSO. By seeking only skilled workers (with appropriate paper qualifications), they are ignoring a wealth of ability and willingness among the young. People have the time and opportunity in their late teens and early twenties, along with the spirit of adventure, to give a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice in communities that need them.

Paper qualifications should not be the sole arbiter for volunteers: I doubt if Jon Snow had a professional teaching qualification in the 1960s when he taught English in Uganda at the age of 18.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH PRINCE,
1057 Halsey Drive,
Key West, Florida 33040.
asprince@conch.net
February 27.

From the Director of Project Trust

Sir, You suggest in your leading article that VSO should consider recruiting from amongst young people again. Presumably you are referring to the time many years ago when it sent school leavers overseas. The developing world now asks VSO for volunteers with high qualifications. This demand cannot be fulfilled by sending school leavers.

However, there continues to be a niche for young, unqualified volunteers overseas, particularly when they are available for a full year. Project Trust has been filling this gap now for 30 years. VSO cannot use these young people, but other organisations such as ours certainly can.

Yours faithfully,
LAVINIA MACLEAN-BRISTOL,
Director, Project Trust,
Isle of Coll, Argyll PA78 6TB.
projecttrust@compuserve.com
March 1.

Patten book row

From Mr Oleg Gordievsky

Sir, The discussion that has arisen around HarperCollins (reports, February 28, March 2, 3) is concerned with aspects of the problem that are of secondary or tertiary importance. The main aspect, remaining out of the glare of publicity, is this: do the British political establishment and media have the courage to say what we think of totalitarian regimes to their faces? And particularly when they use powerful artillery and tanks to turn a demonstration of young idealists on their central square into a bloodbath. Chris Patten is clearly one of the people not lacking in such courage.

By the way, some of the authors and newspapers who are currently actively participating in the discussions took a disgracefully sycophantic attitude towards the Eastern bloc during the Cold War and labelled those who were brave enough to speak the truth about the Communist regimes "Cold War warriors".

Yours faithfully,
OLEG GORDIEVSKY,
c/o A. M. Heath & Co,
79 St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4AA.
March 3.

From Mr Philip Congdon

Sir, The one thing the British hate is hypocrisy, probably because as a nation we are so good at it.

Perhaps Chris Patten would agree that he would be unlikely to support let alone pay someone who would endanger his interests, commercial or otherwise. Rupert Murdoch is no different.

The whole of journalism and TV presentation, including this page, is subject to the editor's knife. How that knife is used, for the better interests of the company or political correctness, or whatever, is the curse of freedom of expression. But there has to be control somewhere and, let's be honest, it may not always be for the best reasons.

I think that those worthies who have left or are considering leaving HarperCollins, should reflect on the possibility of their own hypocrisy. As an alternative, they can always, quietly, arrange for the printing of their books themselves, as I have done in the past (in addition to commercial publication). More honesty and less egotism may be the order of the day.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CONGDON,
4 Hindle Fold Lane, Great Harwood,
Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 7PT.
March 1.

Lord Irvine's quarters

From Lady Lucinda Lambton

Sir, Even if the actions of Lord Irvine of Lairg are the actions of a Prince rather than a people's Lord Chancellor (letters, February 25, 28), I say *hurrah* and *huzzah* for them all. By beautifying the state apartments for posterity, he is feathering — or rather handsomely gilding — the nation's nest rather than his own.

To see the Palace of Westminster is to be proud to be human, proud to be British. It symbolises democracy throughout the world.

Instead of being loathed as an imprudent Labour politician, Lord Irvine should be lauded as a patriot, preserving the architectural glories of the land. His letter to Black Rod (text, February 25) shows that he is a hero rather than a hedonist.

Incidentally, his so-called "throne" of a water closet has embraced the whole social spectrum of derrières. Both Queen Victoria and her Scots ghillie, John Brown, had the self-same models on the London and North Eastern Railway between 1865 and 1883.

Yours faithfully,
LUCINDA LAMBTON,
The Old Rectory, Hedgerley,
Buckinghamshire SL2 3UY.
March 1.

From Mr Bob Clough-Parker

Sir, Mrs Valerie Grosvenor Myer argues (letter, February 28) that the Lord Chancellor should be hailed for "patronising the arts in a magnificent style".

Surely there is a distinction between a patron of the arts who spends his own money, and Lord Irvine of Lairg, who is spending mine.

Yours faithfully,
BOB CLOUGH-PARKER,
85 Tarvin Road,
Boughton, Chester CH3 5EF.
March 3.

From Mr John Hartley

Sir, A life peer, Lord Wigoder, QC (letter, February 28), concedes your right to criticise the Lord Chancellor over the proposed refurbishment of his house, and then immediately concludes that your exercising your right strengthens Lord Irvine's plans to clamp down on press freedom.

Am I alone in feeling that it's not the hereditary peers who are the problem?

Yours faithfully,
J. L. A. HARTLEY,
46 Winchester Court,
Kensington, W8 4AE.
March 1.

Dolphin deaths

From Miss Samantha Holliday

Sir, The arrival on the French Mediterranean coast of the bodies of 22 striped dolphins (report, February 25) illustrates the increasing pressure on this population of dolphins, which has suffered badly in recent years from disease and capture in fishing nets. For example, a viral infection that swept the Mediterranean coasts in 1990 caused many thousands of them to die.

Every year an estimated 8,000 dolphins die in the Italian driftnet fishery area alone. Many of them are members of this severely depleted population of striped dolphins, which, as reported by the International Whaling Commission in 1990 and 1995, cannot be expected to sustain such high levels of exploitation.

During the UK's presidency of the EU this year, the British Government has pledged to get an agreement from other EU countries to ban driftnetting in Community waters. However, some countries such as Ireland (which still has a small driftnetting fleet) are apparently actively blocking this ban.

The latest spate of deaths may be something of a mystery, as your report indicates. However, if we wish to conserve these animals in the Mediterranean and elsewhere, then we need to act urgently to address the threats that we *do* understand. Foremost amongst these are the losses caused by driftnets.

Yours sincerely,
SAMANTHA HOLLIDAY
(Fisheries campaigner),
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society,
Alexander House,
James Street West, Bath BA1 2BT.
February 25.

House names

From Mrs Margaret Ziegler

Sir, Your report today on house names, including some idiosyncratic ones, took me back to the Norfolk Broads in the Thirties. The family was cruising along past houses with garden paths ending at a waterside gate. The house names, many fanciful or descriptive, were on the gates. One completely baffled us, EEEE, until a triumphant shout from my uncle that evening solved the problem — four Es, ie, For Ease.

I hope the owners found it so; maybe it is still there.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET ZIEGLER,
Hightown Farm,
Hightown,
Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3HE.
February 25.

From Miss A. E. Healey

Sir, Should not The Vicarage and The Rectory have been disqualified in the survey of house names? These are names of function, not choice; when they cease to be occupied by the parish clergy they have to become The Old Vicarage/Rectory, or take a new name altogether. Or are people really saying "We're going to call our new house The Vicarage; it's such a lovely name"?

Yours sincerely,
A. E. HEALEY,
30 Main Street,
Gedney Dyke,
Spalding, Lincolnshire PE12 0AJ.
February 26.

From Mrs Jan Rowley

Sir, A friend of mine, having purchased a house near the centre of Wolverhampton, defiantly named it "Seaview".

Yours faithfully,
JAN ROWLEY,
117 Windmill Lane, Castlecroft,
Wolverhampton WV3 8HQ.
jj.rowley@btinternet.com
February 25.

All the Duchess's men

From Mr Garth ap Rees

Sir, Ernest Simpson was not the first husband of Wallis Warfield (Diary, February 27). From 1916 to 1927 she was married to E. W. Spencer Jnr. She divorced him and married Simpson in 1928.

This led to the explanation at the time of the abdication that Spencer was the First Mate; Simpson, the Second Mate; Edward, the Third Mate; Cosmo Gordon Lang, the Primate; and Stanley Baldwin the Checkmate.

Yours sincerely,
GARTH ap REES,
Cranhill House, West Cranmore,
Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4QH.
February 28.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, today attended Receptions at St James's Palace for Young People who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon gave a Lunch and chaired a Meeting for the Outward Bound Trustees at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, this evening held a Reception at Buckingham Palace for Westminster Abbey Trust.

By command of The Queen, Mr Richard Greenwood (Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex) was present at Gatwick Airport, London, this evening upon the Departure of The President of the Republic of Estonia and Mrs Meri and bade farewell to His Excellency and Mrs Meri on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded Mrs Christian Adams as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Duke of York, Trustee, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon attended a Meeting of the Trustees at Buckingham Palace.

March 3: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, today undertook the following *three engagements*:

Her Royal Highness this morning attended a conference for students of Asia/Europe at the School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, London WC1.

The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the new laboratory facilities and library extension at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, De Crespigny Park, London SE5, and afterwards opened a new research centre at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5.

The Princess Royal later opened the new asthma/respiratory disorders clinical trials centre at King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry, London SE5.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a Drill Night on board *HMS President*, St Katharine's Way, London E1.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 3: Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the *Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady in* Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 3: The Prince of Wales, President, The King's Fund, this morning received Rabbi Julia Neuberger (Chief Executive).

His Royal Highness, Patron, Royal Television Society, this evening attended a presentation on digital technology at BBC White City, Wood Lane, Lndon W12.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, National Asthma Campaign, this morning received Melinda Letts upon relinquishing her appointment as Chief Executive.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 3: The Duke of Kent, President, this afternoon attended a lecture given by The President of the Republic of Estonia at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall, London SW1.

His Royal Highness was represented by Lieutenant Commander Sir Richard Buckley RN at the Memorial Service for Mr Stanley David (Jim) Wilks which was held in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London WC2, this afternoon.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will attend a concert at St Paul's Cathedral as part of the 1998 Byzantine Festival at 7.30.

Prince Edward, as Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend the Friends reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00, and will attend a dinner for the members of the Award's Charter for Business at St James's Palace, at 7.45.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, will attend a High Crime Neighbourhoods Seminar at Ruffwood Community Comprehensive School, Roughwood Drive, Kirkby, at 10.00; and will open the Ravenhead Foyer Project, Sherdley Road, St Helens, at 12.45.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron, will visit the Stoke Mandeville Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Research Trust, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire at 4.00.

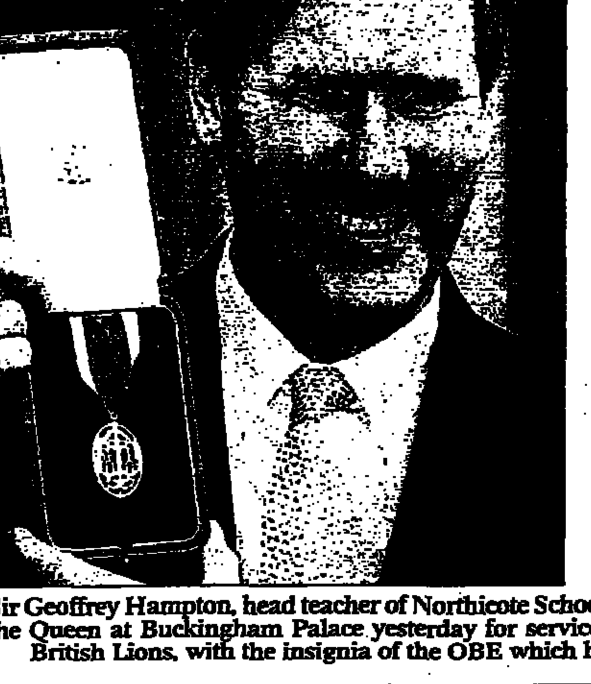
Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prizewinners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 60QB 926895, winnr has a holding of £10,550 and comes from Kent; 94JB 900291, £20,000, Pembrokeshire; 36KN 811039, £6,002, East Lothian; 39ZF 554331, £10,004, City of Cardiff; 60FP 331019, £16,300, Kent; 35AS 149864, £5,081, Lancashire.

£50,000: 59LK 090320, £15,800, Suffolk; 60BK 276372, £15,008, Highland; 27SK 424691, £11,750, Lancashire; 74FF 728626, £19,500, Cambridgeshire; 10FK 740621, £2,100, Essex; 31VW 627951, £7,754; Staffordshire; 13PT 566808, £410, East Sussex; 53BK 005392, £10,350, West Yorkshire; 27HZ 865052, £5,000, West Yorkshire; 52TF 980060, £19,993, Kent; 30JW 911938, £2,110, Leicestershire; 67SN 002261, £20,000, London Borough of Merton.

£25,000: 67ZN 439353, £10,050, Suffolk; 53TK 324079, £20,000, Bedfordshire; 43CS 267355, £2,100, Bedfordshire; 44SK 282019, £10,621, London Borough of Lewisham; 44GZ 960648, £19,700, London Borough of Islington; 2XB 647154, £5,222, West Midlands; 42VB 145734, £150, Hertfordshire; 65FT 513862, £20,000, Surrey; 86DB 052173, £20,000, Hereford and Worcester; 30CS 143898, £2,202, Essex; 37AP 539080, £19,991, Middlesex; 41NW 839673, £20,000, Cambridgeshire; 49DL 482481, £10,080, Lincolnshire; 69FT 830447, £20,000, Northumberland; 77HW 973932, £2,500, South Yorkshire; 65SW 308961, £20,000, Cornwall; 57GK 952001, £12,030, Nottinghamshire; 88JS 489166, £20,000, Oxfordshire; 40PW 186421, £11,900, Suffolk; 22LB 717283, £20,000, Kent; 90JB 084096, £20,000, Gloucestershire; 50FP 582593, £20,000, Overseas; 36JK 524044, £19,951, North Yorkshire; 23KW 755745, £90, Northamptonshire; 30NB 213380, £19,960, Kent.





PETER NICHOLLS

Sir Geoffrey Hampton, head teacher of Northicote School, Wolverhampton, after receiving a knighthood from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday for services to education, and Martin Johnson, captain of the British Lions, with the insignia of the OBE which he also received from the Queen at the investiture

Birthdays today

Sir David Barnes, chief executive, Zeneca Group, 62; Professor Sir Alan Battersby, FRS, Professor of Organic Chemistry, 73; Sir Arthur Bryan, former Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, 75; Mr Nicholas *Coleridge, journalist*, 41; Mr Kenny Dalglish, football manager, 47; Miss Sarah Evans, Headmistress, King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham, 45; Mr Harvey Goldsmith, impresario, 52; Mr Bernard Haitink, KBE, conductor, 69; Mr Howard Hughes, world managing partner, *Price Waterhouse*, 60; *Mr John* Hunt, former Headmaster, Roedean School, 66; Lord Johnston of Rockport, 83; Mr Ralph Kirshbaum, cellist, 52; Mr Stuart Mawson, otolaryngologist, 80; Mr Patrick Moore, astronomer, 75; Ms Jane Reynolds, Chief Executive, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, 45; Mr Alan Sillitoe, writer, 70; Mr Peter Skellern, composer and singer, 51; Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, Associated British Ports Holdings, 58.

Alan Campbell-Johnson

A memorial service for Alan Campbell-Johnson, CIE, OBE, Legion of Merit (USA), will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, on Monday, March 23, at 11am.

Meeting

Kenya Society
Dr Bonaya Godana, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation for Kenya, was the speaker at a meeting of the Kenya *Society held last night* at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr John Edwards, chairman of the society, presided.

University news

Oxford
St Anne's College
Election to honorary fellowships: Professor George Steiner, Professor Martha Nussbaum, Professor Gabriel Josipovici (former Weidenfeld Visiting Professors in European Comparative Literature).

Appointment

Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue, FBA, to be a Trustee of the Wallace Collection for three years from yesterday.

Dinners

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates
The Lord Chief Justice was the guest speaker at the annual Law Faculty dinner of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates held last night at Mecklenburgh Square. Lady French, governor of the trust, with the wardens received the guests who included:

Lady Bingham, Lord and Lady Marlesford, the President of the Family Division and Lady Brown, Lord Justice and Lady Auld, Sir *Andrew and Lady Leggatt*, Lord Justice and Lady Nourse, Sir Mark and Lady Potter, Sir Christopher and Lady Slade, Lord Justice and Lady Staughton, Lord Justice and Lady Swinton Thomas, the Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, and Mrs Jenkin, the Hon Andrew and Mrs Monson, Mr Justice French, Mr Justice and Lady Penry-Davey, Sir Thomas Legg, QC, and Lady Legg, Mr Justice and Lady Newman and *Mr J W A Butler-Sloss and Lady* Justice Butler-Sloss.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Mr Peter Curphey, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, presided at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Dr Sandy Macara, Chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association, also spoke. Among others present were:

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Lord Newton of Braintree, Mr Sam Agbolfo, Ms Charlotte Atkins, MP, Mr Paul Boateng, MP, the Minister of State for Public Health, the President of the Guyana Pharmacists' Association, the Chairman and the Director of the National Pharmaceutical Association, the Chairman of the Health Select Committee, the Director of the National Consumer Council, the Managing Director of Astra Pharmaceuticals, the Master and the Clerk of the Society of Apothecaries of London.

Friends of Brentwood School
Mr Andrew Lansley, MP, was the host at a dinner of the Friends of Brentwood School held last night at the House Commons, by courtesy of Mr Howard Flight, MP.

University Women's Club
Dr Julie Anne Sadie, Director of *the Handel House Trust, was the* speaker at a dinner of the University Women's Club held yesterday at 2 Audley Square, Mayfair. Mrs Wendy Brandon, chairman, presided.

Service dinner

Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Squadron
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire, Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northwestern Europe, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Squadron held last night at the Trades House of Glasgow. Squadron Leader Julian J. Collis, Squadron Commander, presided. Professor Sir Graeme Davies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Glasgow University, and Professor R.W. Shaw, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Paisley University, were the principal academic guests.

Inns of Court School of Law

1997-98 Bar Vocational Course
Early Resits — Pass List

Competent
Aderonmu, L (G); Afariogun, O R (G); Alexander, A M (L); Allport, J M (L); Asekun, D O (M); Azmi, M J (M); Binet, F C (L); Black-Branch, J L (L); Blake-James, H D (M); Borge, P L (G).
Candilio, M E (M); Carr, N (M); Choudhury, A (L); Clifford, J D (I); Cotton, S D (L); Dann, T (L); Davies, A H (G); Devine, L (I); Dinan-Hayward, J A (M); Dworzak, R C (M).
Eastham, J (G); Elliott, C J (M); Gairdner, M C (I); Gamble, N R (L); Gervais, D X (M); Gledhill, L A (L); Godfrey, J M (M); Griffiths, M S (M); Grimshaw, G L (I).
Hadjisimou, A S (I); Hatton, T J (L); Hearsey, R E (L); Hoque, I A (L); Kaur, H (L); Kenyon-Vaughan, D (L); Liban, S R (M); Lowry, B B (G); Luck, J M (G).
MacCartie, P (M); Marlor, R J (M); McMahon, A E (M); Mills, S E (L); Moerman, E R (M); Molloy, S A (M); Moreton, H E (L); Morris, R G (G); Mulkerrins, C T (I).
N'Dow, S A (I); Naqui, S H (G); Njoku, U N (L); Old, R C (L).
Palmer, L J (M); Peers, B G (M); Pond, J O (I); Psaila, T A (G).
Quashie, J S (I); Quinlan, H C (I).
Rafiq, N M (M); Rainbird, J P (M); Rajgopal, U D (I); Record, C S (M); Reed, S J (G); Roberts, B J (M); Ryan, W F (I).
Samuel, E D (I); Sen, D I (M); Shaw, A D (L); Shaw, G (I); Simpson, C M (G); Sissoho, E M (L); Skordis, C (L); Smith, J (I); Smith, J R (L); Smith, M A (L); Spring, L (M).
Thompson, P S (M); Todd, A J (G); Venturino, A'A (M); Walker, D (L); Waller, K W (M); Walton, K T (M); Warburton, P R (L); Wickens, S (L); Williams, T I (I); Yale, A C (I).

Marriage

Mr W.G. Bostock and Miss E.J.C. Mackay
The marriage took place at Holy Trinity, Brompton, on Saturday, February 28, of Mr William Bostock, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Bostock, of Ballinaclash, County Wicklow, to Miss Elizabeth Mackay, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Mackay, of Aberfeldy, Perthshire. The Rev J.A.K. Millar officiated, assisted by the Rev and Mrs Willy Stewart who said prayers.

The bride was attended by *Henrietta and James Seligman*, Claudia and Harry Gibson, and Elizabeth Soar. Mr Charles Bostock was best man.

A reception was held at the Basil Street Hotel.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Henry the Navigator, Portuguese patron of voyages of discovery, Porto, 1394; Antonio Vivaldi, composer, Venice, 1673; Charles Dibdin, composer and actor-manager, Southampton, 1745; Sir Henry Raeburn, portrait *painter, Edinburgh*, 1756; Giovanni Schiaparelli, astronomer, Savigliano, Italy, 1835; Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, Prime Minister of Spain 1973, Santona, Spain, 1903; Jim Clark, world champion racing driver, Berwickshire, 1936.

DEATHS: Saladin, Sultan of Egypt 1175-73, Damascus, 1193; Bernard Gilpin "Apostle of the North", Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, 1583; Jean François Champollion, Egyptologist, Paris, 1832; William Willett, originator of daylight saving, Chislehurst, Kent, 1915; Sir Charles Sherrington, physiologist, Nobel laureate 1932, Eastbourne, 1952, William Carlos Williams, physician and poet, Rutherford, New Jersey, 1963.

King Henry VI was deposed by Edward Duke of York (King Edward IV), 1461, and restored October, 1470.

The first meeting of Congress was held in New York, 1789.

The RNLI was founded, 1824.

The Forth Bridge was opened, 1890.

The first North Sea gas was piped ashore off the Durham coast, 1967.

Church news

Retirement
The Rev Ray Speck, Rector, Jersey St Ouen (Winchester) retired January 31.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.D.R. Adam and Miss P.K. Pease
The engagement is announced between William, third son of Mr and Mrs Robert Adam, of Taunton, Somerset, and Philippa, younger daughter of the late Mr Nicholas Pease and of Mrs Pease, of Aston Tirrold, Oxfordshire.

Mr W.F. Angelo-Sparling and Miss K.J. Hardy
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr Anthony Angelo-Sparling, of Devizes, Wiltshire, and Mrs Josefa Angelo-Sparling, of Bath, Somerset, and Kathryn, daughter of Mr and Mrs *David Hardy, of Woking, Surrey.*

Mr S.H. Broxham and Miss K.C. Foster
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Norman Broxham, of Hornsea, East Yorkshire, and Kate, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Foster, of Henfield, West Sussex.

Major P.H.K. Miller and Miss A.C. Gordon
The engagement is announced between Major Paul Miller, MBE, elder son of Major Peter Miller, of Rainham, Kent, and Mrs A.M. Miller, of Bexhill, Sussex, and Annette, only daughter of Major-General J.C.M. Gordon, CBE, and Mrs Gordon, of Yateley, Hampshire.

Mr T.P.W. Grant and Miss H.X.J. McCowan
The engagement is announced between Thomas, eldest son of Mr Neville and Mrs Jane Grant, of Greenwich, London, and Hester, only daughter of the Right Hon Sir Anthony and Lady McCowan, of Stockwell, London.

Mr M.W.J. Lyons and Miss A.T. Windibank
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs William Lyons, of New Eltham, London, and Alicia Teresa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Windibank, of Blackheath, London.

Mr J.D.D. Reid and Miss D.A.C. Petre
The engagement is announced between Jamie Douglas Daer, younger son of Major General and Mrs P. Reid, of Cholderton, Wiltshire, and Diana Audrey Constance, elder daughter of Major and Mrs R. Petre, of Flaxbourne, New Zealand.

Mr G.P. Tunbridge and Miss N.M. Wise
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, only son of the late Mr George Tunbridge and of Mrs Tunbridge, of South Woodford, London, and Nicola, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Victor Wise, of Brisbane, Australia.

Porcelain from obscure factory goes on sale

BY JOHN SHAW

THE first major collection from the little-known Vauxhall porcelain factory, only identified 10 years ago, goes on sale in London today.

About 40 lots of blue and white tableware ranging in price from £100-£150 for saucers to £3,000 for a rare tankard are being auctioned by Phillips in Bond Street.

They belong to Dr Bernard Watney, president of the English Ceramic Circle, who helped to identify the wares after an archaeological dig in 1987. It was carried out at a site east of the Albert Embankment by archaeologists from the Museum of London.

John Sandon, a porcelain specialist at Phillips, said: "It shows the value of archaeology and how it has increased our knowledge of these factories.

"During the past 10 years archaeologists have discovered new factories in London, Vauxhall, Limehouse and recently Isleworth. Vauxhall and Limehouse showed that porcelain previously thought *to have been made in Liver*pool was produced in London and Isleworth established that pottery thought to have come from Derby was also made in London.

"Vauxhall was a much smaller factory than, say, Chelsea or Bow, Derby or Worcester. Its output was mostly limited to underglazed blue and white in the Chinese style.

"The potting is very fine, very thin and clean. The painting is very bright, described as 'sticky blue,' which makes it very recognisable. The existence of this site is an important discovery in terms of English porcelain."

Some of the designs contain early elements of the now-familiar willow pattern wares. But the factory was short-lived and only operated between 1751 and 1764.

It was run by Nicholas Crisp and his partner John Sanders but Crisp went bankrupt and then moved to the West Country.

☐ Mark Fisher, arts minister, has deferred a decision on export licenses for two works of art sold recently at auction, a miniature portrait of Henry Stewart, better known as Lord Darnley, husband of Mary *Queen of Scots*, who was blown up in a plot in which she was said to have been involved, and a chair designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928).

The portrait, attributed to Levine Terlinc, 1560, has had an export stop imposed until May 26 to give museums an opportunity to match the £122,500 auction price paid at Bonham's in Knightsbridge last November.

If a serious funding bid is *made, there could be a further* postponement until after August 26.

Mackintosh designed the chair for Hous'hill, Glasgow, in 1904. It was the home of Catherine Cranston, his main patron, and was a key element in his career. But the contents were sold in 1933 and the property demolished in the late 1940s.

Fund raisers have to show interest in the piece, priced at £160,000, by April 26 and the deferral period could be extended further until July 26. Mr Fisher's decision on the items follows a recommendation from the Government reviewing committee on the export on works of art.

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Look to yourself, each one of you: you also may be tempted. Carry one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of the Christ. Galatians 6 : 1,2

BIRTHS

ALLIN - On 1st March in Bristol, to Anne (née Farrell) and Jim, a daughter, Catherine Sophia.

ANDREAE - On 27th February 1998, to Lisa Jane (née Beer) and Simon, a son, Jacob John Michael.

BALCOMBE - On 14th February 1998, to Sally (née Spence) and David, a son, Dominic William, a brother for Alexander.

BALLUBAID - On February 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Randa and Sami, a daughter, Roba.

BERENDT - On Sunday January 18th 1998, to Julia and Anthony, a daughter, Ottilie Frances, a sister for Hermione.

CALAMARO - On February 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Maria-Jose and Jean-Paul, a son, Philippe, a brother for Alexandre.

CARPENTER-MULGREW - On 2nd March 1998 in Brussels, to Anne-Thérèse and Douglas, a daughter, Greta Catherine, a sister for Kilda.

COCKROFT - On Saturday February 28th 1998, to Charlotte (née Male) and Timothy, a daughter, Olivia Rose, a sister for India.

CONNOLLY - On 28th February, at East Surrey Hospital, to Beverley (née Arthur) and Tim, a son, Alexander Timothy David, a brother for Laura.

CURWEN - On February 27th, to Kate and Eldred, a daughter, Charlotte Emma.

DIANA-KURAMAPU - On 27th January 1998 at Kingston Hospital, to Luisa and Peter, a son, Sebastian Benedict Gennaro, 6lbs 7oz, a brother for Leonardo.

ELLIS - On 26th February 1998, to Susan (née Hicks) and Darren, a beautiful daughter, Amelia Grace.

FRANCIS - On 1st March, to Carol (née Seymour) and Charles, a daughter, Maddie Sarah, a sister for Eliza.

FRASER-CAMPBELL - On 27th February at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, to William and Karen Brown, a son, Ruaridh Patrick Hamish.

HAVILAND - On 27th February, to Jo (née Morris) and Andrew, a son, George John Edmund.

HOILE - On February 25th, to David and Sarah (née Dines), a son James, a very precious brother for Charles, their first-born.

HOPTON - On 2nd March, to Nick and Hattie, a son, Max Patrick, a brother for Otto.

HUNT-DAVIS - On St David's Day, to Rebecca (née Parker) and Justin, a son, George Miles Ridsdale.

JOLY - On 2nd March 1998, to Catherine (née Wilson) and James, a daughter, Clementine Davina, a sister for Serena.

LEES - On February 28th, to Caroline (née Sclater) and Peter, a son, Hugo Charles.

LOHN - On 7th February 1998, to Johanna (née Cornwell) and Matthew, a beautiful daughter, Beatrix Gabrielle Rose.

MANNING - On February 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Shoshana and James, a beloved son, Max Boaz, a darling brother for Asher Leon.

NICHOLAS - On 24th February 1998, to Gaynor (née Ward) and Mike, a son, Andrew Paul, a brother for Rhian.

PARKER - On Sunday 22nd February 1998 to Amanda (née Billson) and Ian, a daughter, Harriet Alice.

PLOWDEN - *On February 25th*, to Ruth (née Hindhaugh) and Charles, a son, William Thomas Henry, a brother for Eliza and Grace.

RASHIDIAN - On February 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Goli and Reza, a daughter, Roxanna.

READ - On 2nd March 1998, to Lucy (née Tidswell) and Vernon, *a daughter*, Phoebe Jemima Grace, a sister for Constance.

ROBERTS - On 1st March, to Kathryn (née Harrison) and Dai, a precious daughter, Elizabeth Kathryn.

SMITH - On 28th February 1998 to Lorraine and Stephen, a son, Louis (Robert Louis Sebastian), a brother for Nicholas, Lauren, Alexander and Tristan.

STACK - On February 21st at The Portland Hospital, to Marianne (née Kesley) and Andrew, a son, Thomas Neville.

TANNER - On 2nd March, to Anna (née Crosse) and Gordon, a son, Edward Guy, a brother for Robert.

TORGOVNIK - On February 24th at The Portland Hospital, to Sandra and Vlad, a daughter, Jessica.

DEATHS

BENDEL - Milton Paul. Very suddenly at home on March 2nd. Beloved husband of Marion and dearly loved father of Andrew, father-in-law of Betsy and brother of Clive. Deeply mourned by all his family and his many friends. Funeral at Edgwarebury Cemetery on Thursday March 5th at 2 pm.

BIDWELL - Thomas Marmaduke Shelford (Tom), died peacefully on 1st March, aged 93. Very dear husband of Sally and much loved father of Frances and Timothy. Private cremation, no flowers, donations if desired to The Salvation Army. Memorial Service to be announced. Enquiries to Chalcraft Funeral Directors Ltd, 01903 812656.

BOOTH - Dr Roland Gordon - peacefully at home with his wife and daughters on Monday 2nd March 1998. Much beloved husband of Nancy and adored father of Joanna and Claire and dearly loved grandfather of James and Miranda. All enquiries to Phillips Funeral Services 01727 851006. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie Foundation, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and Musicians Benevolent Fund.

BRANDT - Anne peacefully at home on 27th February. Widow of Henry (Jerry), sister of Joanna, mother of Nigel and Tim. Funeral 3 pm *Saturday 7th March at St* Peters Church, Holtye, near Cowden. Flowers if wished to Ballard & Shortall, Funeral Directors, Homelea, Lingfield Road, East Grinstead. Tel: 01342 323092.

CALIENDI - Charles died peacefully after a short illness on Sunday 1st March 1998. Private funeral on Thursday 12th March to be followed by a Memorial Service at a date to be announced and enquiries to 01707-262924. No flowers. Donations to Isabel Hospice W.G.C. or the Sir Geoffrey De Havilland Memorial Fund c/o J.J. Burgess & Sons Funeral Directors, Alfred House, The Common, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 0ND, telephone (01707) 262122 and 262171.

COLE - On February 28th, Philip (Phil) Cole Cdr. D.S.C. R.N. peacefully after a courageous fight against disabilities. Dearly loved and loving husband of Jeanne. A much loved and loving father, father-in-law and Papa. Cremation Private. Burial at sea. Thanksgiving Service in St Johns Church, Milborne Port on Saturday March 14th at 2.45 pm. Donations if wished for The Royal British Legion, Milborne Port Branch or St Johns Church c/o Harold F. Miles, Funeral Director, South Cadbury, BA22 7ES. (01963) 440367.

COOK - George (Geo) died February 25th 1998 after a valiant battle fought with great honour and quiet dignity. Adored husband of Carole, beloved father and faithful protector of Rupert and Caroline, loving stepfather and true friend to Rebecca and Martyn. Funeral Service at St John's Church, The Meads, Eastbourne on Tuesday March 10th 1998 at 2.30 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Adain Funeral Homes, 45 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex, tel: (01323) 643999.

COVENTRY - Monica (Babs) *died 26th February 1998* aged 80 years. Much missed mother of Ian and Jill. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Monday 9th March at 12 noon. Enquiries to Pimms Funeral Services, (01483) 567394.

COX - The Reverend David Percival, BA. MA. BD. CAMR, previously the chair of the Guild of Pastoral Psychologists and author of books including Jung and St Paul. Retired Vicar of St Thomas, Southborough. Will be sadly missed. Funeral Service at St George's Church, Ramsgate, Kent on Thursday 5th March at 2.15pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for St George's Church, Ramsgate c/o H.R. Palmer Funeral Directors, 30 Hardres Street, Ramsgate CT11 8QF tel: 01843 592720.

CUFF - Max, journalist and Writer died suddenly on 24th February 1998, aged 54. Funeral at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Richmond, Surrey on Friday, 6th March at 2.15 pm. Flowers and enquiries to T.H. Sanders & Sons Funeral Directors, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2NA, tel: (0181) 948-1551.

DAVIES - David Glyn. On 28th February, peacefully at home, aged 66. Former Director of Kodak. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Stanbridge, Friday, 6th March at 11 am. Family flowers only please. If desired donations for Macmillan Nurses may be sent to S.E. Dillamore Ltd, 16 Old Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 7RF. Tel: (01525) 372210.

ECCLES - Gifford FRICS, suddenly at home on Saturday 28th February 1998. Devoted and loved husband of Annie, father of Sophie and Hugo and brother of Diana. Loyal friend and wise counsel to many. Family cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St George's Church, Thriplow on Saturday 14th March at 2.30pm. No flowers. Donations if desired to the Injured Jockey's Fund c/o R. Sheates Funeral Directors, 46 Moorfield Road, Duxford, Cambridge CB2 4PP.

FOOT - John peacefully on 28th February 1998 aged 62. Much loved father of Peter, Susan and Sarah and grandfather of Katie, George and Amelia. Funeral Service on 7th March at Knightwick Church at 11.30 am.

GIBSON - Major David peacefully at home on the morning of 3rd March 1998 aged 73. Beloved husband of Jane and of the late Charlotte and much loved father of Anna, Martin, George and Edward; stepfather of Lizzie, Simon and Tom, and devoted grandfather. Funeral at Walford Church, near Ross-on-Wye, on Tuesday 10th March at 2.30 pm. Flowers welcome. Memorial Service to be announced later.

GILBERTSON - Joan, née Hann, peacefully after a long illness on Monday 2nd March 1998. Beloved wife of the late William, dearly loved mother of Elaine and Jenny, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St David's Church, Abercraf on Saturday 7th March at 12 noon.

GRIMMER - On 28th February, Nancy Morten formerly Heathcote, aged 80 years died peacefully. Mother of Rodney and Peter, grandmother of Andrew, Helen, Alexander and Benedict, Daniella, Peter James and Nathalie and great-grandmother of Elizabeth. Funeral at St Mary the Virgin, Shenfield, Essex on Tuesday, the 10th March at 12 noon. Donations would be much appreciated for the work of the St Francis Hospice, Havering-atte-Bower and the British Red Cross both c/o Rodney Comer & Co. Solicitors of 15 Market Square, Winslow, Bucks. MK18 3AB.

HOBSON - Desmond Sanford Fairlie peacefully in hospital on 28th February 1998 aged 86 years. Beloved husband of the late Margie and much loved father of Sandra and Anthony and of grandchildren Anouska, Fabile and Jack. Funeral on Saturday 7th March at St Andrew's Church, Withypool, Somerset at 11.30 am. Flowers c/o H. Hawkes & Sons, Minehead, Somerset, tel: 01643 706 123.

KILMARTIN - Patricia Drake (Paddy), beloved wife of Wing Commander J.I. Kilmartin and loving elder sister of Mary Krueger of Cypress, California, USA. Cremation Exeter Crematorium on 6th March at 12.15 pm.

KING - Pamela Anne on Friday 27th February 1998 at Peebles, widow of LeRoy King and beloved mother of James Woodbury. Cremation private. Evensong of Thanksgiving at 4 pm on Monday 23rd March 1998 at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Peebles. James and Victoria invite everyone attending to the Tontine Hotel following the service.

LLOYD - David Thomas O.B.E., F.R.I.C.S., late Colonial Service, peacefully at his home in Woolpit, Suffolk. Cremation March 9th 12.45pm at the West Suffolk Crematorium, Bury St Edmunds. No flowers. Donations if desired to RSPB c/o L. Fulcher, 80 Whiting Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1NX.

MELVILLE - Alan George, musician died peacefully at home on Sunday March 1st in his 87th year. Beloved husband of the late Madeline, and of Mollie; father of Clarissa and Giles, grandfather of Boyd, Rachel and Christopher, stepfather of Charlotte and Martin, and "step grandfather" to their children. Funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Combe Down, Bath, on Monday March 9th 2 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to the hospice: - Dorothy House Foundation c/o G. Mannings & Sons Ltd., North Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5HW.

NUDINGER GRAY - Edith on 28th February 1998, beloved wife of Dr. Hugh Gray and deeply loved sister of Susanna Rudinger. Private funeral. Please no letters or flowers. Donations if desired to cancer charity BACUP c/o I.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, W2 4UL.

PARKER - Cynthia Louise (Cherry) of Bramber Road, Seaford, the dearly loved wife of the late Major Dominic Parker, passed away 1st March 1998 in a Seaford Nursing Home. Funeral Service at Bishopstone Church, Seaford on Wednesday *11th March at* 11.30 am *followed by* interment in the churchyard. Cut flowers please may be sent to Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 19 Clinton Place, Seaford, Sussex, BN25 1NP. Tel: 01323 492666.

REDSELL - After a 6 year battle against Cancer, June died on February 28th 1998 at home, peacefully and with the serenity that enriched her life. Adored wife, mother, nana and sister, she was surrounded by her family at the end. As in life so in death June was at the centre of our lives and love. Burial on March 11th, her birthday, at St Mary's Church, Ticehurst at 12.00 noon. Flowers and enquiries to C Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sussex. TN19 7ET. Telephone: 01435 882219.

RICHARDSON - Lt. Col. Retired. Doctor Wilfred Thomas on February 28th, in hospital after a long illness, aged 71. Dearly loved husband of Anne and much loved father of Peter, William and families. Funeral Service at St Helen's Church, Welton, near Hull; East Yorkshire Friday 6th March at 3.15 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers please.

SEDDON - Peacefully in Worthing Hospital on 28th February after a brief illness. George Seddon much loved husband of Betsy, father of Tony and stepfather of Carola and Olivia Hickling, Susan Davidson and Angela Monro. Funeral at St Mary the Virgin East Preston on Friday 6th March at 1 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired, for the British Legion East Preston Branch or the RNLI Littlehampton Branch may be sent to Dillistone Funeral Service, 191 South Farm Road, Worthing, Sussex. Tel: 01903 200895.

SMITH - Guy Russell aged 80 years peacefully at home. Much loved husband of Di and father of Nigel, Robert and Sally and stepfather of Peter and grandfather of Katie, Miles, Michael, Edward and Rebecca. Funeral Service at St George's Church, Thriplow on Monday March 9th at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Papworth Hospital Charitable Funds may be sent to K. Sheates Funeral Directors, 46 Moorfield Road, Duxford, Cambridge CB2 4PP, tel: (01223) 833463.

SPEIGHT - Irwin Bruce T.D., F.R.C.S., D.O., at home on 1st March. Husband of Patsy and father of Emma Lucy. Enquiries to J.W. Emberson, (01472) 343906.

SWINNER - Ralph. Our much loved and respected father and grandfather passed away peacefully aged 83. He will be sadly missed by his daughter and son-in-law Sue and Tony Rosner, son and daughter-in-law Peter and Linda, and grandchildren Julie, Ian, Warren, Daniel and Stacey.

TOOGOOD - On Sunday March 1st, peacefully at home, Michael, loving husband of Maureen, and wonderful father to Simon and Sally, and grandfather to Hannah and James. The funeral service will take place at St Giles Church, Chideock, Dorset on Saturday 7th March at 2 pm. Cremation private. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Motor Neurone Disease Association, c/o A.G. Down, P.D. 66 South Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3NN. Tel: 01308 422643.

WHITELOCK - Trafford Wallace February 27th 1998 late of Woollahra, former BBC and ABC Producer. Aged 81 years. No flowers by request.

WYLIE - Irene Josephine (née Rogers) 1st March 1998, peacefully, in her 86th year, at Tudor Bank Nursing Home, Southport. Service Friday March 6th at 2 pm Southport Crematorium. Flowers c/o Moisters Ltd, (01704) 501501.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR MARTIN HOLLIS

Professor Martin Hollis, FBA, philosopher, died from a brain tumour on February 27 aged 59. He was born on March 14, 1938.

A brilliant and prolific philosopher, Martin Hollis had been Professor at the University of East Anglia since 1982. At the heart of his work lay an abiding concern — almost an obsession — with the nature of rationality. Hollis's belief in the powers of reason was unshakeable, and he was never in the least abashed by critics who complained that the strength of his commitment sometimes seemed almost unreasonable.

James Martin Hollis was educated as a scholar at Winchester College, and went on to win a classical scholarship to New College, Oxford. Before Oxford he did his National Service in the Royal Artillery. He seldom spoke about this period in his life, but it evidently left its mark, if only by turning him into a chain-smoker for many years.

At Oxford he was taught by A. J. Ayer, a philosopher for whom he always expressed the highest regard. Ayer, he would say, invariably treated even the most unpromising remarks of his students with complete respect and tried to find some truth in them. This experience too must have left its mark, for Hollis's own teaching was inspiring and encouraging in a very similar way.

After Oxford Hollis began by treading a path not unfamiliar in his family. He took the Civil Service examinations (passing out top) and in 1963 he joined the Foreign Office. But he soon decided instead on an academic career, a move less quixotic than it would be nowadays. He and his wife, Patricia, who were married in 1965, both obtained lectureships at the University of East Anglia in 1967, and there they both stayed. They quickly became prominent in the local community as well as the university, Hollis serving for ten years as a JP while Patricia joined (and later led) Norwich City Council.



Meanwhile Hollis had begun to produce the steady stream of books that earned him such widespread recognition, making him greatly in demand as a visiting lecturer and gaining him a fellowship of the British Academy in 1990. His particular interest lay in the limitations — and, as he saw it, the paradoxes — inherent in treating rational action simply as a matter of adjusting means to ends as efficiently as possible. He first explored these issues in *Rational Economic Man* (1975), which he wrote in collaboration with Edward Nell.

His own position was laid out most fully in *The Cunning of Reason* (1987) and in the essays he collected under the title *Reason in Action* (1996). His basic contention was that the rationality of action depends not merely on the means chosen but on the nature of the ends sought. Reason, he came to believe, is the fundamental means by which the self realises and expresses itself in the social world. He was an implacable and vocal enemy of every form of epistemological and cultural relativism.

Hollis was tirelessly interested in the application of rational choice theories to different academic disciplines. He addressed himself to the sociologists in *Models of Man* (1977), and to the theorists of international relations in the book he wrote with Professor Steve Smith, *Explaining and Understanding International Relations* (1990). In his last book, *Trust Within Reason* — which has yet to be published — he turns his attention to moral and political philosophy. Here too he criticises the limitations of game theory, reaffirming his own broader conception of rationality as the only means of accommodating the values of social co-operation and mutual trust.

Somehow Hollis also found time to write two highly successful textbooks, *An Invitation to Philosophy* (1985) and *The Philosophy of Social Science* (1994). Both displayed to the full his remarkable ability to paraphrase the essence of even the most complicated arguments, and both were written with the seemingly effortless lucidity and play of wit that characterised all his work.

Although he worked hard, Hollis was also devoted to family and domestic life. Visitors were always welcome, though the unwary were liable to be trapped by his modest assurances that he enjoyed a bit of chess (he was an extremely strong player) and by the delight he took in setting puzzles for his guests to solve. For many years he contributed a weekly column of brainteasers to *New Scientist*, eventually publishing a selection of them as a book.

To his university, Hollis gave unstinting service, acting as dean of his school and later as vice-chancellor. He disclaimed any ambitions as an administrator, but his intelligence and deeply ingrained sense of duty made him an extremely effective one. All letters and memos were immediately answered by neatly handwritten notes, and only by the faintest tones of irony did he ever convey that one might be wasting his time. In matters of business, as in everything else, he was utterly dependable.

After thirty years at the same institution there were recently signs that Hollis might be ready for a change. But it was not to be. A brain tumour, diagnosed last spring, failed to respond to treatment, and he was bedridden by the end of the year. Thereafter he was devotedly nursed by his family at home.

Hollis was a genuine stoic. He never complained about his life, which he recognised to be privileged, nor about his colleagues. He was not without intellectual aggression, but he was devoid of malice. His courtesy was invariable, and he extended it equally to everyone. Even *in extremis*, these qualities of equability never deserted him. A colleague who visited him shortly before he died remarked that life in universities was becoming so harassing that one was probably better off in bed. By then Hollis could no longer speak, but he was still able to give his inimitable smile.

He is survived by his wife, Baroness Hollis of Heigham, and by their two sons.

ALBERT LIPPERT

Albert Lippert, co-founder of Weight Watchers, died on February 28, aged 72. He was born in New York on April 23, 1925.

ALBERT LIPPERT was as a marketing legend, the first businessman to turn a weight problem into a billion-dollar empire. From the day in 1963 when he sat in the living room of a Long Island housewife, Jean Nidetch, and learnt the rudiments of her diet programme, he knew there was room for big profits. His instinct for marketing and his personal empathy with those struggling with their weight proved a corporate goldmine, and in 1978 he and Nidetch sold the diet business they had created to Heinz for $72 million.

Since that sale the membership list at Weight Watchers has grown from 28 million members to 42 million. Last year, amid much publicity, the company signed the Duchess of York to promote its programme in the US.

Albert Lippert was born in New York City and earned a degree in Business Administration before serving with the US army in Europe during the Second World War. At the end of the war, he returned to New York to embark on a career in retailing, and for 12 years worked as a buyer before becoming a partner in the clothing firm George Simonton & Co.

In 1963, after ten years of marriage had seriously expanded his waistline, Lippert heard about Jean Nidetch, a housewife who was giving classes on a diet programme that had helped her to lose weight. Together with his wife, Lippert began attending those classes, and after shedding four stone, he suggested to Nidetch that they join forces and take the diet to the masses. Lippert would manage the business affairs of the programme, while Nidetch became its roving ambassador. Together they came up with the name Weight Watchers as shorthand for a weight control programme that emphasised group support and nutritional eating plans.

It was Lippert's idea to move the business out of Nidetch's living room and into locations around the city. The programme spread successfully by word of mouth, and soon Lippert was selling Weight Watchers franchises for small amounts but insisting on 10 per cent of the gross. Within ten years, franchises that had sold for $2,000 were returning $100,000 a year.

Once the core business was established, Lippert expanded the Weight Watchers brand to include cookbooks, videotapes and foods. Lippert took the company public in 1968 and Heinz acquired it in 1978. Tony O'Reilly, chairman of Heinz, recalled that during the buyout Lippert put more store by personal rapport and a handshake than paperwork. He said they conducted the entire Weight Watchers deal without lawyers or accountants present. In 1979 Lippert joined the board of directors of H. J. Heinz and continued to work as a consultant for Weight Watchers, particularly expanding the programme in South Africa.

His personal philanthropy included a number of US hospitals and the Ireland Fund. This year Trinity College Dublin will establish the Al and Felice Lippert Chair of Jewish Studies.

Lippert is survived by his wife Felice and two sons.

NOEL ORDMAN

Noel Ordman, port designer and administrator, died on February 25 aged 78. He was born in Dublin on October 8, 1919.



FOR nearly six years, battle raged over plans to build a third London airport at Maplin Sands in the Thames Estuary, until the project was finally cancelled in 1974. The £1 billion scheme would have created an airport to rival Heathrow and Gatwick, and a deep-water port to compete with Rotterdam as one of the main points of entry into Europe. At the centre of these plans was Noel Ordman, who was first executive director of planning at the Port of London Authority and then its deputy director-general.

Noel Ordman — known as Nahum to his family — was the son of a Jewish minister from Eastern Europe. He won a bursary which enabled him to study civil engineering at Edinburgh University, and joined the Admiralty's civil engineering department shortly after graduation. In 1942 he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and posted to Lord Mountbatten's staff in Ceylon, where he stayed until 1948, working in engineering and intelligence.

He joined the Port of London Authority initially as a civil engineer, but rose quickly through the organisation and was a strong advocate of modernising the way the port worked. He was behind the scheme to relocate the operating part of London's docks from the Isle of Dogs and Rotherhithe to Tilbury in Essex. The authority spent months before the move negotiating with the unions, but in late 1969 the Tilbury opening was delayed for more than two months, due to a bitter dock strike. When opened, however, Tilbury brought containerisation to Britain, irrevocably changing the handling of freight and the landscape of many coastal ports.

By this time Ordman was a central figure in the design of the Maplin scheme, proposed in 1968. But despite the support of the Roskill report, the Labour Government and its Conservative successor, the project became mired in local objections and politics.

When Labour returned to power in 1974, Anthony Crosland, who had long been sceptical of the need for Maplin, used his influence as Environment Secretary to have the scheme scrapped. The plans briefly resurfaced at the end of the 1970s and technically remain under consideration.

In 1970 Ordman became the first chairman of the Port of London's consultancy arm, which aimed to work with other dock authorities around the world. Among the ports it advised were Preston, Brisbane, the Suez Canal, Piraeus and various projects in Mexico. Ordman retired in 1979 to set up his own consultancy, continuing to work on four major port projects in Mexico. He also served on the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses.

He was for many years a first class member of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, serving as its president in 1994. In November 1994 he unveiled a plaque in Westminster Abbey commemorating John Smeaton, the great Georgian engineer best known for building the Eddystone Lighthouse.

Noel Ordman was also a freeman of the City of London and a fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers. He is survived by his wife, Marie Louise, a son and a daughter.

JIMMY HAGAN



Jimmy Hagan, footballer and manager, died on February 27 aged 80. He was born on January 21, 1918.



Jimmy Hagan (in suit) with members of his successful Peterborough squad in 1960

A TALENTED inside-forward with a maverick streak, Jimmy Hagan dropped no clues during his playing career of the uncompromising managerial style that was to court controversy wherever he took charge. He was sacked as manager by Peterborough United and West Bromwich Albion despite achieving notable success at both, and with chairmen in England wary of his confrontational methods, he accepted a position as manager of Benfica and promptly secured further honours in Portugal.

James Hagan played for England at schoolboy level and joined Sheffield United from Derby County for £2,925 in November 1938. This was considered a lot of money for a young player, but Hagan stayed at Bramall Lane for 20 years and scored 117 league goals as the club traversed the top two divisions. Twice, in 1939 and 1953, they won promotion to division one, only to suffer relegation in 1949 and 1956.

No less a figure than Sir Stanley Matthews considered Hagan one of the best inside-forwards of a period in which England were especially well endowed. The fact that he won just a single full cap, against Denmark in 1948, is deceptive: he also appeared in 16 wartime internationals. Despite his ability to play on either side of the centre forward, however, he was unfortunate to be a contemporary of Raich Carter, Wilf Mannion and Stan Mortensen.

He ceased playing in 1958 to take up a managerial appointment at Peterborough, then in the Midland League. Within two years the club won election to the Football League and in 1960-61 created a record that still stands by scoring 134 goals to earn promotion to division three.

However, despite a willingness to socialise away from the game, Hagan's strict discipline and bloody-mindedness made him an unpopular figure. In October 1962, an accumulation of grievances prompted seven players to ask for transfers. Hagan was no diplomat, and nor had he ever wasted time flattering the club's directors. He was sacked a week later even though Peterborough sat near the top of division three.

A four-year period at Albion followed a similar pattern of success tarnished by disputes. During the winter of 1963, 14 players led by the captain, Don Howe, a future England coach, went on strike because Hagan refused to allow them to wear tracksuit bottoms in training.

Albion won the League Cup in 1966, but, perversely, he met his downfall when he led them to the final again the following season. He introduced a bizarre series of tactical changes at half-time with Albion leading Crystal Palace 2-0, and was punched by one of the players during the ensuing row in the dressing room. Palace won 3-2, and Hagan was promptly dismissed.

Benfica, who included the great striker Eusebio, turned to Hagan, now scouting for Manchester City, after failing to tempt Sir Alf Ramsey to leave his post as the England manager. Several players were physically ill after his first training session, but from 1971 to 1973 the team won three successive league titles.

Predictably enough, Hagan left after a disagreement with the club president. Afterwards, he coached in Kuwait before working for Sporting Lisbon, Boavista and a series of smaller clubs in Portugal. He returned to England five years ago.

Iris, his wife of 56 years, died in 1996. He leaves a son and a daughter.

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345 KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, March 3

Three hundred and forty five people, including the crew of 11, were killed when a DC10 aircraft of Turkish Airlines crashed at 12.35pm today, in the forest of Ermenonville, northeast of Paris, a few minutes after taking off from Orly airport. There were no survivors. The aircraft was on a regular flight from Ankara to London, by way of Paris.

Among the victims were 200 passengers, many of them British, who had been transferred to the Turkish Airlines flight as a number of British Airways flights from Paris to London had been cancelled today, because of the strike of engineers and staff at London airport.

I visited the scene of the crash, four hours later. Thousands of people were converging on the site, by car, cycle and on foot. They cluttered the roads and paths into the forest, hampering rescue work. But the police kept them at a safe distance from the actual site. None of the hundreds of strollers in the forest was killed by the crash, which occurred in a small sheltered valley, with a blanket of snow still on the ground, where no one had ventured. Over a stretch of 1,000 yards or so the trees had been sheered off, probably a British Airways official said, as the pilot attempted a crash landing. Only blackened stumps remained. Wreckage and mutilated human remains were strewn over the whole area, from which smoke curled up in places. Bits of clothing and of flesh clung from some of the trees. The aircraft seemed to have been pulverised. At the end of the alley, where what was left of it must have finally come to a standstill, there were one or two barely identifiable portions of the fuselage. I tripped over a part of a turbine. That was all.

The rescue workers quickly realised that there was no rescue work to be done, and set about the gruesome task of collecting human remains. The bodies, battered and dismembered, were being put into bags, or just covered with blankets, and piled up on stretchers. They were taken to a collecting point on the edge of the valley . . .

In Ankara, the Turkish Minister for Communications suggested the possibility of sabotage. Air police at Orly, however, insist that all the 216 people who boarded the aircraft in Paris had been searched, while the 116 who had come from Istanbul and remained on board during the stopover.

ON THIS DAY

March 4, 1974

In the worst air crash ever recorded at the time, the aircraft seemed to have been pulverised and seven bodies were later found scattered in fields no less than nine miles away.

THE TIMES TODAY WEDNESDAY MARCH 4 1998

NEWS

Serb units accused of killings

■ The secretive Serb police unit linked with the "ethnic cleansing" that appalled the world after the break-up of the former Yugoslavia was blamed for the massacre in Kosovo.

As more than 40,000 people gathered to bury their dead, survivors of the attack spoke of black-uniformed police units being involved in the killings ..... Pages 1, 11, 19

Murdoch blames publishing executives

■ Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, expressed regret that senior executives of HarperCollins were not forthright about the real reasons for dropping Chris Patten's book on China. "I did not tell people to try to censor the book or invent excuses not to do it. I said: 'Why don't you go and say we would rather have someone else publish this'," he said yesterday ..... Page 1

'Reprieve' for savers

Gordon Brown is expected to give a tax reprieve in his March 17 Budget to people who have ploughed their savings into Peps and Tessas ..... Pages 1, 27

Warning to corrupt

Corrupt councillors who bring local government into disrepute will be expelled after a single offence under plans to be unveiled by Tony Blair ..... Page 2

China coverage

The Times' coverage of China was attacked by its former East Asia Editor who claimed coverage had been curtailed to suit the interests of Rupert Murdoch. But Peter Stothard, the Editor, rebutted the charge ..... Page 2

Granada pays up

Granada Television publicly apologised to Marks & Spencer and agreed to pay damages and costs over a TV programme alleging that the company exploited child labour ..... Page 3

Plagiarism suit

In a potentially grave blow to their Oscar hopes, the makers of *The Full Monty* have been served with a £60 million plagiarism lawsuit by two New Zealand writers ..... Page 3

Anti-anthrax jab

Britain's 3,500 servicemen and women in the Gulf have been urged by the Government to have anthrax vaccinations ..... Page 4

'9 to 5' clergy

Assaults on clergy have prompted the Church of England to believe that the concept of parish priests being available "all the time" is an outdated notion ..... Page 6

Cartoon favourites

Children prefer old-fashioned cartoons such as *Scooby Doo* and *Tom and Jerry* instead of hi-tech animations full of violence, new research shows ..... Page 8

Nazi sentiment

An assessment of the mood in the German Army, prepared for parliament, says only a clear break with its wartime past will allow commanders to get to grips with the growing number of neo-Nazis in the barrack room ..... Page 10

Kosovo explodes

As the Yugoslav crisis unfolded over the past ten years, the Kosovo timebomb remained unprimed. Now the fuse has been lit ..... Page 11

BJP thwarted

Sonia Gandhi's campaigning boosted Congress and helped to prevent the pro-Hindu BJP from gaining an outright majority in India's elections ..... Page 14

Gates fights back

Microsoft boss Bill Gates, the target of an anti-trust suit, warned Congress that America's survival in the global market-place was at risk if it shackled his empire with red tape ..... Page 15

Ceiling falls in at Buckingham Palace

■ Urgent checks were being conducted on the Buckingham Palace ballroom ceiling after a gilded plaster moulding fell more than 40ft on a man watching his father being invested by the Queen. Nicholas Howell, 28, required nine stitches to two head wounds; nevertheless, he was in good humour, saying it was "a good tale to tell down the pub" ..... Pages 1, 5



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE / REUTERS

Formula One driver Giancarlo Fisichella enjoys a backseat spin, courtesy of the RAAF aerobatic team, over the race track in Melbourne.

BUSINESS

Rolls-Royce: German car companies BMW and Volkswagen have emerged as front-runners to buy Rolls-Royce Motor Cars as the luxury car maker unveiled its latest model at the Geneva Motor Show ..... Page 23

Halifax: The converted building society plans to buy back £1 billion of its own shares over the next year ..... Page 23

Energy battle: Texas Utilities launched its second bid for The Energy Group in 24 hours after grabbing 13.9 per cent of its target in a market raid ..... Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 Index fell to 5807.7. Sterling's index rose from 105.1 to 105.3 after a rise from $1.6479 to $1.6528 and from DM2.9863 to DM2.9884 ..... Page 26

SPORT

Football: Manchester United are confident that their considerable European experience will stand them in good stead when they face AS Monaco tonight ..... Page 44

Rugby union: Tim Rodber and Paul Grayson, of Northampton, are resigned to missing the England tour of the southern hemisphere this summer ..... Page 44

Cricket: David Lloyd, the England coach, was philosophical after the Guyana Test defeat. He is confident that the team can take its revenge in the fifth Test in Barbados ..... Page 40

Motor racing: Michael Schumacher has turned down the chance of a reconciliation with Jacques Villeneuve days before the new season starts ..... Page 38

ARTS

Get 'em off: Audiences nationwide have been flocking to see the comedy, *Girls' Night Out*. Now it has arrived in London, and the screaming is getting louder ..... Page 34

Music, please: Culture Secretary Chris Smith talks about his plans to give a government leg-up to all kinds of music, from jazz and folk to electronic and ethnic ..... Page 35

Into spring: At the Barbican, the London Symphony Orchestra and Mstislav Rostropovich continue to explore the soul of Shostakovich with the sixth symphony ... Page 35

Measured words: Children's classics are high on publishers' agendas these days, from *Treasure Island* to *The Railway Children*. But do words still matter to youngsters? ..... Page 36



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
Geoff Brown sees Minnie Driver, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck in Good Will Hunting

■ **BOOKS**
Roy Foster dips into Irish history; Mary Loudon reviews Russell Celyn Jones

The price of friendship: Do people really value money more than friendship, as a new book claims? ..... Page 16

Savoury: Nigella Lawson savours the claim that half the nation's vegetarians are meat-eaters on the sly, and wonders about the controversial MMR vaccine ..... Page 16

Woodward reminder: As the Louise Woodward case reopens on Friday, all working parents will be reminded of their commitments. Celia Brayfield starts a two-part series with a call for society to make childcare a priority, and Sally Morris talks to a model about motherhood ..... Page 17

On screen: Film-makers are always searching for homes with star quality. Is it worth inviting them in? ..... Page 32

Planner's blight: How some landowners get around the planning regulations by applying for one kind of use then doing something else ..... Page 32

France and the other nations that championed Lebanese sovereignty will be put to the test: were they just paying lip service, or will they press Lebanon and Syria into giving the Israeli initiative to withdraw troops a chance?

— The Jerusalem Post

Preview: Five agony aunts reveal the secrets of their trade. *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph is unfascinated by the story of a Victorian serial killer ..... Pages 42, 43

Bloodshed in Illyria

Time is not unlimited: ethnic unrest in the Balkans could spiral, once again, out of control ..... Page 19

Art at arm's length

The Culture Secretary will soon discover that the arm's length principle is as good at protecting politicians from the arts as it is at protecting the arts from politicians ..... Page 19

Off the rails

Britain's railways, when in state control, were among the safest in the world. Private stewardship should be no less exacting ..... Page 19

SIMON JENKINS
British policy on Iraq is slithering from senseless sabre-rattling to incoherence ... The British and American Governments sought "automaticity" to bomb Saddam when they choose. They failed; they have emerged from the crisis weaker than before. Saddam is therefore stronger. This is ludicrous ..... Page 18

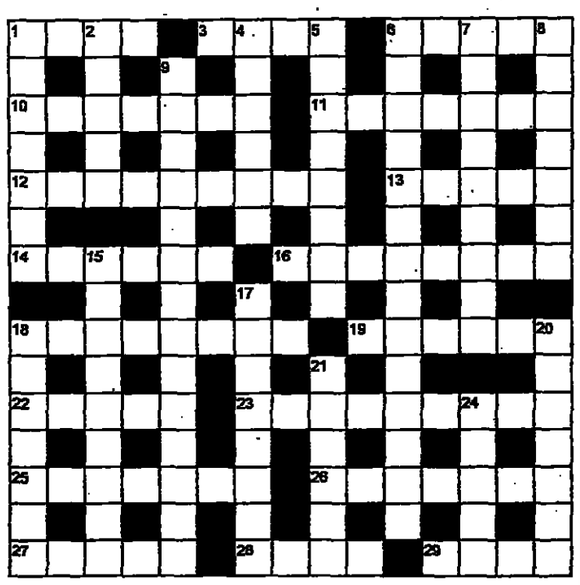
MICHAEL ANCRAM
The adoption of these concordats is a further example of the Government's attempts to exercise power immune from Parliament. They will be made to appear friendly. They are anything but ..... Page 18

PETER RIDDELL
Both Lord Irvine and Geoffrey Robinson are likely to survive longer as ministers, and deserve to do so, than many who are now enjoying their discomfiture ..... Page 9

Professor Martin Hollis, philosopher; **Albert Lippert**, co-founder of Weight Watchers; **Jimmy Hagan**, footballer and manager ..... Page 21

Israel and Palestine; falling VSO numbers; HarperCollins row; Lucinda Lambton on Lord Chancellor's refurbishments; dying dolphins; house names ..... Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,730



ACROSS
1 Dismissed editor from corrupt Scots town (4).
3 Clothes son obtained in return (4).
6 Whiter fence made by such a person? (5).
10 Former individual contribution to this paper? (3-4).
11 Horse eats to live, so put back this? (7).
12 Revs have to be kept within this? (9).
13 Shilling found in simple money bag (5).
14 Skill is something that can go off when imbibing drink (6).
16 Titanic's no more, wrecked going to America (8).
18 Fare on boat from China? (4,4).
19 Find in Miami a small pollution problem (6).
22 Fail to get ventilation in church right (5).
23 Telling fortune of friend seeing obscurity with lines (9).
25 A night in Paris, in no particular pension (7).
26 More marks needed to secure everyone an ancient garment (7).
27 Call for silence before game and note a gesture of apathy (5).
28 See, with sixth sense, the unknown (4).
29 Genuine noble runs to the front (4).

DOWN
1 Bowl short? That's a relief (7).
2 About to change belief (5).
4 Fur company put up English item for sale (6).
5 Feature of bay and another horse in South-East (4,4).
6 One page in history piece that could be written (4,10).
7 Pedestrian mug a new driver upset promises to settle scores (9).
8 Right way out of lapse (7).
9 Dreadful sensation produced by Titanic disaster? (7,7).
15 A way round county river for squire? (9).
17 The last character to love work they arranged? Sponge, perhaps (8).
18 Beast of burden has to lift a vessel (7).
20 Misbehaving by lamas is unusual (7).
21 Excellent pals? (4-2).
24 Stuff from voyage to the Orient (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20729

P	L	A	Y	F	E	L	L	O	W	S	■	A	R	C
U	■	N	■	I	■	A	■	N	■	P	L	A	■	A
N	A	V	I	G	A	B	L	E	■	O	R	P	E	N
■	■	I	■	H	Y	■	U	■	N	■	E	■	D	■
B	O	L	S	T	E	R	■	P	A	G	I	N	A	L
A	■	E	■	I	■	E	■	H	■	E	■	■	■	■
T	U	D	O	R	■	N	E	F	A	R	I	O	U	S
T	■	A	■	■	T	I	■	■	R	■	T	■	■	■
L	E	V	I	A	T	H	A	N	■	F	U	N	G	I
E	■	E	■	P	■	■	G	■	A	■	■	■	■	C
F	A	N	A	T	I	C	■	F	A	R	M	A	R	K
■	I	■	P	■	N	■	H	■	R	■	G	■	D	■
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L	■	R	■	S	■	I	■	N	■	M	■	E	■	■
D	O	T	■	S	T	R	I	P	T	E	A	S	E	R

Times Two Crossword, page 44

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre 15C (59F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Torquay 1.38in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides 6 hours.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** a low pressure area over southern Britain will clear away east, then all parts will be in a colder northwest airstream. England and Wales will start cloudy, with rain in all areas except the North. Some sunny periods before showers move back into western areas. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny intervals and showers, with the risk of sleet or snow in some areas.

☐ **London, SE, SW, Central S & S England, E Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Isles:** rain, heavy in places at first, clearing during the morning, then dry with sunny periods. Wind strong SW, becoming moderate W. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Central N, E & NE England, W Midlands, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee areas:** mostly dry with sunny periods developing. Wind light NW, becoming moderate SW. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **S & N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** any rain soon clearing, then sunny periods and showers. Wind light NW, becoming strong SW. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** sunny periods and occasional showers, heavy in places. Wind moderate SW. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland:** frequent showers, heavy in places, with risk of thunder. Sleet or snow on most high ground, and perhaps at lower levels over Scotland. Wind fresh SW, becoming strong NW. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** many parts starting dry with sunny periods. Showers spreading and becoming heavy at times, wintry later on high ground. Winds freshening W. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** cold with wintry showers. Frosty at first on friday then rain or sleet spreading east.



Changes to chart below: high M will drift south; low Q moves east and deepens; low R fills and then loses its identity; low X moves quickly northeast and fills



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	2.7	0.09	8	46	sh	Leeds	1.9	0.24	14	57	r
Anglesey	-	0.83	10	50	r	Lerwick	4.2	0.24	4	39	h
Aspatria	-	0.71	9	48	r	Leuchars	1.8	0.12	9	48	b
Aviemore	2.4	0.08	6	43	sn	Littlehmpton	-	0.80	11	52	d
Belfast	-	0.25	7	45	r	London	-	0.24	15	59	r
Birmingham	0.2	0.35	13	55	r	Lowestoft	-	0.38	15	59	r
Bognor R	-	0.63	12	54	r	Manchester	-	0.53	12	54	r
Bournem'th	-	1.15	13	55	r	Margate	X				
Bristol	-	0.79	14	57	r	Minehead	0.1	0.99	14	57	r
Buxton	0.6	1.17	10	50	r	Morecambe	0.2	1.00	11	52	r
Cardiff	X					Newcastle	0.4	0.15	11	52	r
Clacton	X					Norwich	0.4	0.38	15	59	r
Cleethorpes	1.3	0.19	15	59	sh	Oxford	X				
Colwyn Bay	-	0.43	12	54	r	Penzance	X	1.35	13	55	gs
Cromer	-	0.31	14	57	sh	Poole	-	0.98	13	55	r
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.37	12	54	r
Eastbourne	-	0.48	12	54	r	Ross on Wye	X	0.57	14	57	sh
Edinburgh	X					Salcombe	-	0.74	13	55	r
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.78	8	46	r	Salstn.Snd	-	0.45	12	54	du
Exmouth	-	0.80	14	57	g	Scarboro'	0.4	0.30	12	54	r
Falmouth	-	0.77	13	55	gs	Shrewsbury	0.1	0.35	14	57	r
Fishguard	-	0.69	12	54	r	Skegness	0.3	0.22	15	59	r
Folkestone	-	0.56	11	52	r	Southend	-	0.09	14	57	sh
Glasgow	1.6	0.13	8	46	r	Southport	X				
Guernsey	-	0.07	15	59	r	Stornoway	5.8	0.41	6	43	h
Hastings	-	0.56	11	52	d	Tenby	X				
Hayling I.	-	0.58	13	55	d	Tiree	6.0	0.09	7	45	h
Herne Bay	-	0.20	14	57	c	Torquay	-	1.38	13	55	r
Hove	-	0.49	11	52	sh	Tynemouth	X				
Humberston	-	0.32	13	55	r	Weston s Mare	X				
Isle of Man	0.1	0.56	9	48	r	Weymouth	-	0.60	12	54	r
Isle of Wight	-	0.85	12	54	r						
Jersey	0.1	0.09	13	55	r						
Kinloss	4.9	0.03	7	45	b						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	16	61	s	Cologne	8	46	c	Madrid	12	54	s
Alcudia	17	63	s	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	17	63	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f	C'phagn	4	39	f	Malaga	20	68	s
Algiers	18	64	f	Dublin	8	46	r	Malta	16	61	f
Amst'dm	9	48	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Melb'rne	20	68	s
Athens	18	64	s	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	21	70	s
B Aires	X			Florence	15	59	s	Miami	21	70	s
Bahrain	21	70	s	Frankfurt	10	50	c	Milan	13	55	r
Bangkok	34	93	f	Funchal	22	73	s	Montreal	5	41	s
Barbados	30	86	r	Geneva	10	50	r	Moscow	1	34	s
Barcelona	14	57	s	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	8	46	c
Beijing	12	54	s	Helsinki	-5	23	s	N Delhi	22	72	s
Beirut	17	63	r	Hong K	17	63	c	N York	11	52	s
Belgrade	10	50	s	Innsbruck	9	48	s	Nairobi	X		
Berlin	5	41	r	Istanbul	8	46	r	Naples	18	64	s
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	16	61	s
Biarritz	15	59	s	Jo'burg	26	79	s	Oslo	-4	25	f
Borde'x	14	57	c	L Angels	15	59	s	Paris	11	52	s
Brussels	9	48	f	L Palmas	25	77	s	Perth	30	86	f
Budapest	8	46	f	La Toquil	10	50	f	Prague	6	43	c
Cairo	19	66	f	Lisbon	12	54	s	Reykjavik	-5	18	s
Cape Tn	27	81	s	Locarno	9	48	f	Rhodes	18	64	s
Ch'church	17	63	X	Luxembg	7	45	c	Rio de J	34	93	f
Chicago	2	36	sn	Luxor	22	72	s	Riyadh	21	70	s

Rome	16	61	s								
S Fr'isco	13	55	s								
S Paulo	X										
Salzburg	9	48	c								
Santiago	22	72	f								
Seoul	11	52	s								
Sing'por	34	93	f								
St'kholm	0	32	s								
Strasb'rg	10	50	c								
Sydney	26	77	s								
Tangier	18	64	s								
Tel Aviv	15	59	c								
Tenerife	27	81	s								
Tokyo	13	55	s								
Toronto	6	43	c								
Tunis	17	63	f								
Valencia	18	64	s								
Van'ver	7	45	c								
Venice	12	54	s								
Vienna	9	48	f								
Warsaw	4	39	s								
Wash'ton	11	52	c								
Wel'ngton	17	63	X								
Zurich	7	45	s								

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	5'19	4.0	5'40	4.1	Liverpool	2'55	9.0	3'21	9.0
Avonmouth	11'09	12.5	11'26	11.9	London Bridge	5'38	7.1	6'09	6.8
Belfast	2'57	3.3	3'24	3.4	Lowestoft	0'57	2.5	1'40	2.2
Cardiff	10'55	11.6	11'12	11.0	Margate	3'40	4.6	4'15	4.5
Devonport	9'47	5.2	10'10	4.9	Milford Haven	10'16	6.5	10'39	6.2
Dover	2'42	6.6	3'12	6.3	Newquay	9'13	6.6	9'37	6.2
Dublin	3'30	3.9	3'57	4.0	Oban	9'42	3.8	9'41	3.9
Falmouth	9'18	5.0	9'41	4.7	Penzance	8'36	5.2	8'58	5.0
Greenock	4'15	3.4	4'38	3.5	Portland	10'45	4.8	11'03	4.7
Harwich	3'30	4.0	4'01	3.8	Portsmouth	3'18	4.8	3'39	4.4
Holyhead	2'05	5.5	2'31	5.4	Shoreham	2'01	5.4	2'25	5.9
Hull (Albert D)	10'12	8.3	10'33	8.4	Southampton	2'30	5.4	2'51	4.9
Ilfracombe	10'00	8.7	10'18	8.2	Swansea	10'21	8.9	10'41	8.4
King's Lynn	10'20	6.0	10'37	6.2	Tees	7'50	5.2	8'07	5.2
Leith	6'37	5.2	7'03	5.3	Wilton-On-Naze	3'28	3.2	3'57	4.0

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Sun rises: 6.40 am — Sun sets: 5.46 pm
Moon sets: 12.07 am — Moon rises: 9.55 am
First quarter tomorrow

London 5.46 pm to 6.38 am
Bristol 5.56 pm to 6.47 am
Edinburgh 5.53 pm to 6.55 am
Manchester 5.52 pm to 6.46 pm
Penzance 6.09 pm to 6.56 am

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THE TIMES 2

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4 1998

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS
De Beers looks for more sparkle from diamonds
PAGE 24



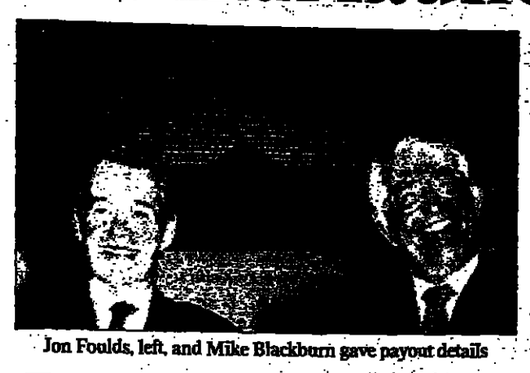
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Why Chris Smith is listening to all that jazz
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Making a pitch for the perfect game of cricket
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TELEVISION AND RADIO
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Halifax launches £1bn buyback as profits jump



Jon Foulds, left, and Mike Blackburn gave payout details

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

HALIFAX yesterday revealed a plan to buy back £1 billion of its shares over the next year, as it announced a 15 per cent increase in profits to £1.65 billion.

Despite the increase Halifax shares fell 25p to 950p. Analysts were disappointed that the former building society had not put forward a more acquisitive strategy for dealing with its £4 billion of surplus cash. Some also felt that the bank should have paid some of the cash back to shareholders, two thirds of which are retail investors, through a one-off special dividend.

Jon Foulds, chairman, said the company was still searching for acquisitions that were both a strategic fit and could enhance shareholder value.

He said: "We are committed to enhancing our value for our shareholders. We have, therefore, decided to purchase up to £1 billion of Halifax shares over the next 12 months as part of an ongoing capital management programme." Halifax declined to reveal price and strategy details relating to its buyback plans. Yesterday it spent £44 million buying 4.63 million shares at 961p.

The Halifax's share of the total mortgage market was about 19 per cent, but its share of net new lending was only 6 per cent. Mike Blackburn, chief executive, said the figure had been affected by those borrowers who had delayed redeeming their mortgages until after flotation. He said that 16 per cent, or one in five, of all new loans were still taken out with the Halifax.

Mr Blackburn claimed that competitive pressures in the mortgage market were set to increase in future, but added: "We are currently piloting seven-day opening, and are offering mortgages by phone."

Retail deposits also fell for the first time in the Halifax's history. Overall £615 million was switched out of the Halifax, equivalent to a reduction in total balances of 0.8 per cent. Mr Blackburn said the fall was within its expectations after the conversion.

Halifax's financial services division, which incorporated profits from Clerical Medical for the first time, showed an 180 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £129 million. Profits from personal lines insurance increased only slightly, to £142 million, while profits from the Halifax's treasury division fell 15 per cent to £77 million.

The bank also said it was continuing to cut costs and was planning to close a further 67 branches during the year.

Earnings were 43.5p a share, up from 22.4p. The Halifax, which did not pay an interim dividend, declared a final dividend of 17.5p, which will be paid on May 11.

Tempus, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5807.7	(-12.9)
Yield	2.82%	
FTSE All share	2705.97	(-1.84)
Nikkei	17168.33	(-96.01)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8535.75	(-14.70)*
S&P Composite	1046.50	(-1.20)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 11/16%*	(5⅞%)
Long Bond	100 28/32*	(101 7/16)
Yield	6.07%*	(6.02%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7 1/16%	(7 1/16)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	106 12/16	(107 11/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6537*	(1.6475)
London:		
$	1.6527	(1.6485)
DM	2.9896	(2.9872)
FFr	10.0260	(10.0120)
SFr	2.4250	(2.4119)
Yen	208.15	(206.82)
£ Index	105.3	(105.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8088*	(1.8135)
FFr	6.0650*	(6.0820)
SFr	1.4680*	(1.4667)
Yen	125.94*	(125.47)
$ Index	108.00	(108.1)

Tokyo close Yen 125.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May) $14.35 ($14.40)

GOLD

London close $297.05 ($298.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Bid war takes Energy price to £4.45bn

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TEXAS UTILITIES launched its second bid for the Energy Group in 24 hours after grabbing 13.9 per cent of its target in a market raid.

The Americans fought back with an 840p-a-share, or £4.45 billion, bid after rivals PacifiCorp had raised its offer to 820p and picked up more than 8 per cent of Energy in a raid on Monday afternoon. Texas had made an 810p bid on Monday morning.

PacifiCorp, based in Oregon, fired the first shot in the battle for Energy last year and re-opened the bidding again last month. Shares in Energy surged again yesterday, from 806p to 838p, as more than 15 per cent of the company changed hands.

Energy, which had recommended both PacifiCorp's bid last month and Texas's increased offer on Monday, is now pausing before offering any further endorsements.

The vigorous fight for The Energy Group is being seen by analysts as a battle of managerial egos between the US utilities rather than a sensible pursuit of the energy business that was demerged from the Hanson conglomerate last year. One said: "Valuation arguments do not now apply. Both managements have at stake a lot of credibility."

Nigel Hawkins, of Williams de Broe, said: "This is branching outside normal criteria. We have got to the edge of an acceptable price."

Eric Nye, Texas chairman, said: "The revised offer price and these purchases not only demonstrate our commitment to acquire the Energy Group but also underline our expectation that all consents and confirmations relating to the Texas Utilities Offer and the Peabody sales will be obtained within the normal timetable for an offer in the UK."

Gaining regulatory approval is not thought to be a problem for Texas.

BMW attacks Vickers for playing poker with R-R

FROM ALAN COPPS IN GENEVA

BMW launched a scathing attack on Vickers over its handling of the sale of the Rolls-Royce car business yesterday and criticised the company for going ahead with the launch of the latest model in Geneva before a new owner had been secured.

The tense relations between the two companies were put under further strain yesterday after Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW chairman, expressed impatience with the way Vickers was conducting the sale, which he described as "a poker game".

Sir Colin Chandler, Vickers' chairman, is believed to be seeking around £400 million for Rolls-Royce, which was formally offered for sale last year. However, with a number of possible buyers dropping out of the race, BMW is thought to have made an indicative offer of about £250 million. Yesterday, Herr Pischetsrieder, denied that BMW had offered a "niggardly" price for Rolls-Royce.

He said: "It's not true that we have made an offer. I think we will have an announcement within about four weeks. It depends upon Vickers making up their minds what they want for Rolls-Royce."

BMW, which already owns Rover, provides the V12 engine and many components for the new Rolls-Royces. Silver Seraph. Herr Pischetsrieder believes the launch of the car before the company's future ownership had been decided was a mistake. But a Vickers spokeswoman rejected that view, saying: "We wanted to show this was a strong and thriving company."

Despite the fallout between Vickers and BMW, the German auto manufacturer is considered firm favourite to acquire Rolls-Royce, with only Volkswagen remaining as a serious rival.

The launch of the Silver Seraph, the result of a £200 million investment by Vickers over three years, appears to have put off other bidders. Yesterday, Herr Pischetsrieder repeated his warning that BMW would stop engine deliveries if Rolls-Royce was bought by a competitor.

Kurt Rippholz, head of corporate affairs at Volkswagen, said: "At the moment we are still interested. We have been to the factory and we were very impressed." He suggested that Volkswagen could be looking at "some form of a partnership".

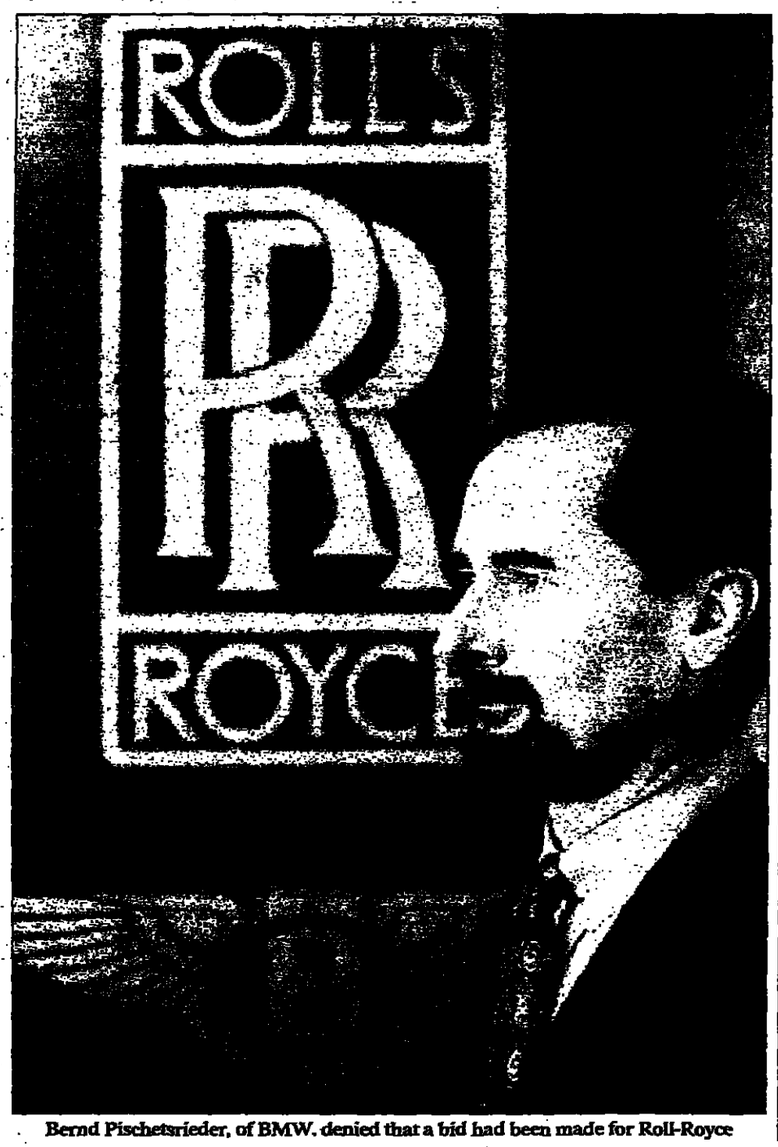
Earlier, a bid by Germany's other major carmaker, Mercedes-Benz, had been ruled out by Jurgen Schremp, chairman of its parent company, Daimler-Benz. He said Mercedes would take a decision within the first half of this year on whether to build its own high luxury car, the Maybach, which is on show in Geneva.

The Maybach would provide the most serious competition yet for Rolls-Royce. The £155,000 Seraph has no direct competitor at the moment.

A spokesman for Toyota, whose name had also been linked to Rolls-Royce, categorically denied any involvement. The chances of the marque being sold to a consortium of enthusiastic owners are also seen as slim.

While clearly delighted with the initial reception for the Silver Seraph, Rolls-Royce executives were given nothing away. "The sale is being conducted to a timetable set by Vickers," said a spokesman.

Vickers' annual results, due today, are expected to reveal a dip in profits, with NatWest Markets seeing a fall from £83.3 million in 1996 to £61.5 million after exceptionals.



Bernd Pischetsrieder, of BMW, denied that a bid had been made for Roll-Royce

DTI bans former Barings directors

BY RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PETER NORRIS, former chief executive of the collapsed Barings Bank, has been disqualified by the Department of Trade and Industry as a company director for four years.

Mr Norris and Tony Hawes, a second Barings director who was yesterday disqualified for five years, both accepted the DTI ban to avoid a lengthy and expensive court hearing.

The DTI has already banned George MacLean, formerly head of banking at Barings and an employee of 30-years' standing, and three others. A further four directors are believed to be in the firing line.

These include Andrew Tuckey, the former deputy chairman of Barings who now works at DLJ Phoenix, the US investment bank. He intends to dispute any disqualifaction measures brought by the DTI. The maximum ban is 15 years.

Nigel Griffiths, Minister for Competition and Consumer Affairs, said the two bans sent "a clear message to business. Directors must take their responsibilities seriously — there can be no passing the buck".

The DTI said Mr Norris had failed to ensure proper monitoring or control of the activities of Nick Leeson, the rogue trader who brought down Barings in February 1995 under a trading loss of £830 million, in spite of warning signs. Mr Norris did not dispute the allegation.

Mr Hawes, former group treasurer of Barings Investment Bank, was alleged to have failed to ensure that the provision of massive amounts of funding to Leeson in Singapore were ever properly understood, although he knew that his funding had increased from £120 million at the end of 1994 to £306 million by the collapse. Mr Hawes also did not contest the allegation.

Commentary, page 25

Bain becomes chairman of Post Office

NEVILLE BAIN is to be the new chairman of the Post Office, it was announced yesterday. He succeeds Sir Michael Heron, who is retiring (Christine Buckley writes).

Mr Bain, 57, will start on March 16 and will be paid £88,000 a year for a two-day week. He will also be able to earn up to 40 per cent of his salary in the executive bonus scheme. Mr Bain, who is also chairman of Hogg Robinson, resigned as chief executive of Coats Viyella last year.

The Government is currently undertaking a review of the Post Office, with a view to granting greater commercial freedom but stopping short of outright privatisation.

Commentary, page 25

Pension funds trail behind stock market

THE performance of UK pension funds lagged behind the stock market last year because managers failed to pick the right equities, according to a new survey by the WM Company (Richard Miles writes).

UK equity holdings in pension funds produced an average return of 22.6 per cent in 1997, a full percentage point behind the FTSE all-share index, which grew by 23.6 per cent over the same period.

Gordon Bagot, executive director of the WM Company, said pension funds had lost out by being underweight in some of the best performing sectors, most significantly in retail banking stocks.

Target shortfall, page 24

PIA fines Britannic £525,000 over pensions

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Personal Investment Authority yesterday imposed a £525,000 fine on Britannic Assurance for failures in its review of personal pension mis-selling.

This is the fourth fine from the PIA over the pensions review in as many months and it equals the record penalty imposed on London & Manchester, Britannic's smaller rival, in January. Britannic must also pay £125,000 costs.

The PIA said that a monitoring visit in January 1997 had revealed that Britannic had not followed guidance in conducting its review. The insurer, based in Birmingham, had failed to identify priority cases and its system for mailing policyholders had been incomplete and *ad hoc*, the PIA said.

Brian Shaw, chief executive, said the company had begun identifying priority cases before the guidelines were issued, but admitted that it had been slow to send out questionnaires to investors. He said: "This has been one of the most complex projects we have ever had to handle. However, since the visit, we have gone to great lengths to put the breaches right and were able to meet our end-of-year deadline for resolving 90 per cent of our 7,000 priority one cases."

To date, Britannic has offered £22.5 million in compensation to 2,537 of the priority one cases. The rest have been excluded or deemed ineligible for redress. Priorty one cases include those of people who took out a personal pension with the company in preference to a employer's scheme and who have since retired or died.

Up to 2 million people may have been mis-sold a personal pension between 1988 and 1994. Settlement could cost the pensions industry £4 billion.

Mr Shaw said he was confident Britannic would complete its remaining 7,500 cases by April, two months ahead of schedule. However, he admitted that Britannic had appealed against the PIA investigators' report so that the fine would be disclosed after it had met the first deadline.

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Pension funds fall short of index targets

BY RICHARD MILES

A NEW survey of pension funds gives the lie to industry claims that active fund managers outperform index-trackers over the long term.

Research by The WM Company, an actuarial consultant, shows that pension fund investments in UK equities failed to match the All-Share index over five, 10 and 20 years.

While the equity element of pension funds produced an annual return of 15.4 per cent between 1988 and 1997, the FT All-Share index topped this with annual returns of 15.7 per cent.

Over 20 years, the picture is even gloomier. Active managers produced a 17.7 per cent return on UK equities, but the index grew year on year by 18.3 per cent over the period.

The WM survey figures exclude managers' fees, but as these are generally lower for index tracker funds, it is safe to conclude that active managers underperform their computer-driven counterparts.

Gordon Bagot, executive director of WM, said: "You have to be careful making comparisons: on performance, active fund managers and index-trackers are neck-and-neck. But this is before the costs of the manager."

For the past two to three years, active fund managers have on average outperformed the index. But 1997 proved tricky, with the market driven by a handful of soaraway stocks, such as banks and pharmaceutial companies.

The average performance of active funds has also been dragged down by the lacklustre returns produced by some of the bigger investment houses. Four of the largest players — Mercury Asset Management, Gartmore, PDFM and Schroder — prop up the bottom of the most recent performance tables.

Another brake on pension fund performance has been their move into cash. According to WM, UK pension funds hold a record £30 billion in cash, representing 6 per cent of the pension industry's total assets. The high levels of cash reflect a general bearish attitude to UK stock markets, most publicly represented by Tony Dye, chief investment officer of PDFM. Under his direction, PDFM has held about 12 per cent of its assets in cash for nearly two years. Gartmore has a similar cash allocation.

One chief investment officer, who preferred not to be named, said the WM figures represented only the average performance. He said many actively managed funds consistently outperformed the index. "This is not a story I buy," he said.

De Beers to write its name in stones

BY JON ASHWORTH

DE BEERS, the South African diamond group, is to begin test-marketing diamonds stamped with the De Beers brand name, to see whether consumers will pay more for the reassurance this brings.

The move, announced at a time of sharply reduced diamond sales, blamed largely on economic problems in the Far East, could be a prelude to squeezing rival diamond producers who ride on the back of the De Beers name. De Beers spends $200 million a year promoting diamonds for the industry as a whole, and is keen to assess whether there is any premium in a De Beers "kitemark".

Stones stamped with the De Beers inscription and a security number — both invisible to the naked eye — are to go on sale in Manchester. De Beers has patented a reader device to allow jewellers to study the inscriptions. The idea is to create something similar to the Woolmark in fabrics, or the *appellation contrôlée* in wine. The inscriptions will in no way affect the grade of diamond, up to and including internally flawless stones.

De Beers' total net earnings fell 9 per cent to $1.229 billion ($1.344 billion) in the year to end-December, as the Asian economic turmoil began to bite. Income before tax was 15 per cent lower at $892 million ($1.055 billion). Some 67 million pieces of diamond jewellery were purchased last year — the same as in 1996 — but the strength of the dollar and sharp decline in several Asian currencies left the value of diamonds purchased 4per cent lower in dollar terms.

Nicholas Oppenheimer, chairman of De Beers, said diamond "sights" — at which cutters and polishers receive their allocations of rough gems — remain sharply reduced, although it is too early to comment on prospects for this year.

In Japan, the world's second biggest diamond jewellery market after America, sales fell 19 per cent in value terms. However, sales in America rose 9 per cent, and Europe showed a slight recovery, led by the UK, where sales grew 10 per cent in dollar terms.

De Beers produces 50 per cent of the world's gem diamonds by value from mines in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Tanzania, channeling them through its Central Selling Organisation (CSO), based in London. CSO sales fell 16 per cent in the second half of 1997, leaving sales for the year 4 per cent lower, at $4.6 billion.

De Beers is repositioning itself as a focused diamond producer, part of a tidying-up exercise involving Anglo American, its long-standing bedfellow. The fall in the share prices of Anglo American, its industrial arm, Amic, and Minorco, the UK-based mining group, knocked nearly $2 billion off the market value of De Beers' listed investments.

Ford gears up to make $16.5bn on spin-off

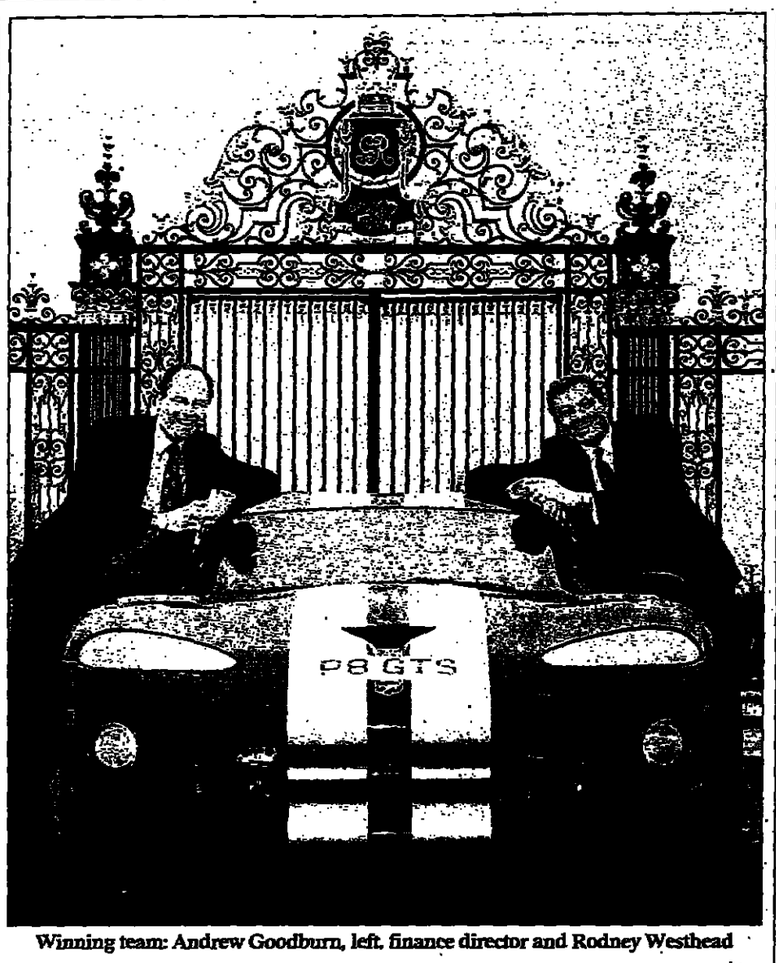
FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FORD yesterday finalised plans for its $25 billion (£15 billion) spin-off of Associates First Capital, the finance arm. The US car group bought the company for $3.3 billion in 1989 and said it will make a $16.5 billion one-off, non-taxable profit from the transaction that will shrink the size of the motor group by a third.

Former and current employees who own Ford shares will receive $3.1 billion in cash instead of shares in Associates. All other shareholders will receive one Associates share for every four Ford shares. Plans to divest the finance arm were first announced in October. The distribution will take place on April 7.

Ford has been holding an 80.7 per cent stake in Associates, a Dallas-based consumer and commercial finance company, after a first public offering in 1996. Alex Trotman, Ford chairman, said: "The spin-off is further evidence of the confidence we have in Ford's automotive and automotive-related businesses."

The Associates shares represent about a third of Ford's value, so the value of Ford stock is expected to fall after the spin-off, a spokesman said. He said: "We don't believe it will come down by the full amount. Everyone is going to win."



Winning team: Andrew Goodburn, left, finance director and Rodney Westhead

Ricardo back in to the black

RICARDO GROUP, the automotive engineering consultancy, earned pre-tax profits of £3.85 million in the half-year to December 31. This compared with losses of £13.7 million in the first half of the previous year, when there was a £16.3 million charge against restructuring and disposals. Rodney Westhead, chief executive, revealed that normalised profits rose 52 per cent despite continuing losses in America. Adjusted earnings rose 50 per cent to 5.4p a share. The interim dividend rose to 2.2p a share from 2p.

O'Reilly to bid for Independent

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

INDEPENDENT Newspapers of Ireland is preparing a formal bid to take control of Newspaper Publishing, the company that produces *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*.

Tony O'Reilly, chairman, whose Dublin-based international newspaper group already owns 46 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, wants to buy the 46 per cent held by Mirror Group, publisher of *The Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror*.

Both sides have agreed in principle that one or the other should take control of the business, if financial terms can be agreed.

Mirror executives have not ruled out buying the O'Reilly stake. But it is more likely the Irish group will prevail because Mr O'Reilly is keen to own a national newspaper in the UK.

Talks on price are likely to centre around the £16 million suggested by the Barclay Brothers for the Mirror stake but Mirror executives will demand considerably more. Independent Newspapers would also have to take on the Mirror Group's share of Newspaper Publishing's debt and provide an acceptable management contract for the Mirror Group to cover printing, distribution and "back office" operations of *The Independent*.

US troubles send Delphi diving

BY CHRIS AYRES

TONY REEVES, chairman and chief executive of Delphi Group, saw more than £1.2 million wiped off the value of his shares and options in the computer services company yesterday, after reporting problems in the US.

Shares in Delphi dived 124p to 703½p, after the company failed to meet analysts' profit forecasts. Delphi said problems had been caused by too many staff in the US simultaneously taking time off.

Mr Reeves also admitted that the company's investment programme was taking longer than expected to produce returns. Pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 were up 4.5 per cent to £12.8 million, while sales rose 32 per cent to £277 million. Profits were expected to be between £15 million and £16.2 million.

Earnings per share were down 12.8 per cent to 28.79p. A final dividend of 4.8p, due June 12, lifts the total 20 per cent, to 7.2p.

Delphi plans to go ahead with its separate listing on Nasdaq in the US, though a delay is expected.

The company would continue to look for acquisitions while growing internally. Mr Reeves said Delphi's markets remained buoyant.

Tempus, page 26

Record year for London securities trading

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S financial markets enjoyed record securities trading last year, ensuring the City consolidated its position as the largest player in the international securities markets.

The British Invisibles Securities Dealings report showed cross-border trading in foreign equities totalled £1.44 trillion (£1,440 billion) — up 39 per cent on the previous year.

London has a 60 per cent share of this market, twice the level of the New York and Nasdaq exchanges combined.

In the Euromarket, international bond trading increased by 45 per cent to £8.45 trillion (£8,450 billion) with an estimated 70 per cent of the market based out of London.

Trading in domestic equities also reached £1 trillion (£1,000 billion), an increase of 36 per cent compared 1996.

Jeremy Seddon, chief executive, said: "The dominant position Britain has achieved represents the resurgence of an industry which only a quarter of a century ago was domestic in orientation."

The British Invisibles report highlights the importance of the booming London markets to the domestic economy. UK companies were able to raise a record £11.8 billion through new equity issues last year.

Securities dealings contributed 0.4 per cent of GDP in 1997. British Invisibles calculates the UK equity market is now larger as a proportion of GDP than the markets in New York or Tokyo.

Congress warns Gates over strategy

BILL GATES, the Microsoft chairman, was yesterday warned by the US Congress that he must play by the rules (Oliver August writes).

Senator Herb Kohl said: "Mr Gates, no one — no matter how powerful — is above the law." Congressmen told the Microsoft chairman that his company may be threatening the survival of its rivals and the future of free enterprise in the software sector during a hearing on whether the company was a monopolist.

Orrin Hatch, the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, said: "Microsoft's breathtaking growth has for many raised serious questions about the future of competition and innovation in the software industry."

Mr Gates strongly rejected any criticism and hit back by claiming it was not his company that was threatening the industry but the interference of the Government. The Justice Department is locked in a legal battle with Microsoft over its Internet software.

Mr Gates said: "Microsoft does not have monopoly power in the business of developing and licensing computer operating systems. Microsoft has just 13 per cent of all operating system-level software revenues."

Mr Gates said Microsoft would lose its market leadership if the Justice Department wins its lawsuit alleging the company was leveraging its dominance in operating system software to gain business in the market for Internet browsers. He said the strategy was essential to the company's survival.

Northern Rock pledge on rates

NORTHERN ROCK has fired the latest shot in the savings war, becoming the first institution to pledge that it will inform customers individually of every savings rate change and new product launch. Northern Rock, which became a bank last year, has been in the habit of launching accounts with attractive rates that were then superceded by other new accounts with better rates.

The move appears to be an attempt to counter criticism of this practice. It comes just before the launch of Northern Rock's new telephone-based direct division, which will offer a market-leading instant access account. News of this latest account has caused some discontent among holders of a 90-day account with the bank. They claim that their rates now compare less than favourably with those now offered for instant access.

Sherwood price leaps

THE price of shares in Sherwood International jumped 82½p to 690p yesterday after the specialist computer services company announced that its pre-tax profits had increased to £3.1 million in 1997, from £2.1 million in the previous year. Earnings advanced to 23.8p a share, from 19.2p. A final dividend of 3.6p a share raises the total to 5.4p a share, from 4.5p. The company — which primarily serves the insurance market — said that it was confident that it could build a strong market position in America.

US growth moderates

THE index of leading economic indicators, which measures trends in the American economy, was unchanged in January to show a moderating pace of economic growth. The Conference Board, a private business research group based in New York, said this was the second consecutive month the leading index was unchanged. It last rose in November, by 0.1 per cent. "The leading indicators point to moderation of the expansion and low risk of a recession in 1998," the group said. Analysts had expected the index to rise by 0.1 per cent.

Clipper sails to market

SIR Robin Knox-Johnston, the yachtsman, sailed on to the stock market yesterday with the flotation of Clipper Ventures, his sailing company. Clipper is joining Ofex, the market for small companies, in a share issue aimed at raising £1 million. The company owns eight 60-ft racing yachts which, every two years, race around the world crewed by ordinary men and women without sailing experience. People pay Clipper to crew the boats, which have berths for up to 15 people. For the full ten-month global race, crew members pay £22,750.

EU plan to boost trade

TENS of billions of pounds a year could be added to trade between Europe and America under an ambitious plan for sweeping away most remaining barriers that is to be tabled in Brussels today. If successful, the scheme, drafted by Sir Leon Brittan, the EU Trade Commissioner, will give birth to free transatlantic trade in the fast-expanding area of services, removing the still formidable restrictions to banks and insurance companies.

Cinven's bond success

THE Cinven-led management buyout at IPC Magazines has raised £180 million in high-yield bonds through its sole underwriter Goldman Sachs. The issue is believed to be the largest sterling denominated high-yield transaction so far in the European high-yield bond market. Analysts say the issue was three times over-subscribed. Cinven won an auction to buy IPC from owners Reed Elsevier for £860 million earlier this year.

Grundig site expands

MORE than 200 jobs are being created with the expansion of the Grundig Hyundai television satellite receiver production site, it was announced yesterday. The expansion by the recently formed electronics company is the result of a contract with British Sky Broadcasting for the supply of digital set-top boxes. The boxes will be built at Grundig's manufacturing site in South Wales. The company says the contract with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, secures 225 existing jobs and creates 215 new ones.

Chiroscience pools skills

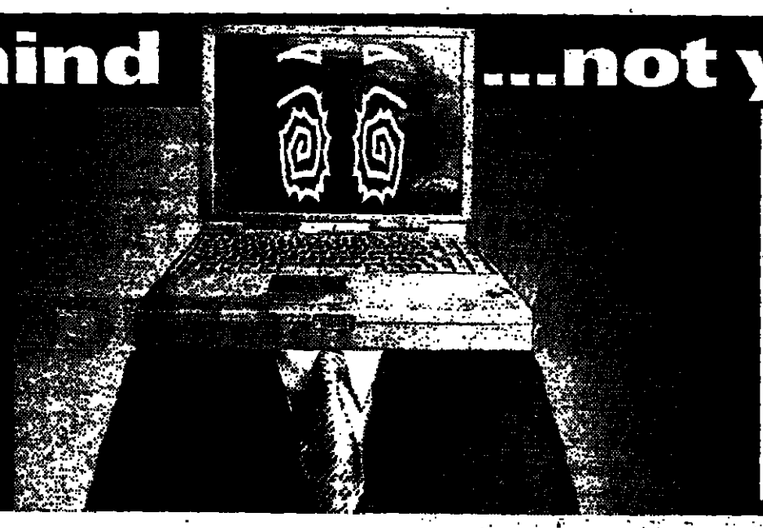
CHIROSCIENCE, the drug development company, has pooled its DNA analysis skills in a new company called Rapigene, which it intends to develop as a stand-alone business. It believes that within a few years Rapigene will generate annual revenues of $40 million (£24 million) from services such as identifying a patient's genetic suitability for a drug. John Padfield, Chiroscience's chief executive, will head Rapigene, but is seeking a president and chief operating officer.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.53	2.65	Malta	0.686	0.827
Austria Sch	22.00	20.34	Netherlds Gld	3.556	3.261
Belgium Fr	64.31	59.85	New Zealand $	2.98	2.72
Canada $	2.468	2.278	Norway Kr	13.06	12.12
Cyprus Cypf	0.917	0.846	Portugal Esc	318.21	296.18
Denmark Kr	11.97	11.08	S Africa Rd	9.84	7.88
Finland Mkk	9.61	8.86	Spain Pta	264.54	245.75
France Fr	10.48	9.70	Sweden Kr	13.96	12.86
Germany Dm	3.15	2.91	Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.36
Greece Dr	488	459	Turkey Lira	567470	567692
Hong Kong $	13.91	12.41	USA $	1.757	1.614
Iceland	131	111			
Ireland Pt	1.35	1.17			
Israel Shk	6.29	5.84			
Italy Lira	3113	2876			
Japan Yen	222.83	205.30			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

All change looks like minimal change at the Post Office. After six so-so years at Coats Viyella, Neville Bain prompted a spontaneous 5 per cent rise in its share price when he unexpectedly left the sagging textile group a year ago. But he has manifestly fulfilled the ambition he announced at the time, to collect a string of non-exective directorships and a chair. A week before that, Mr Bain had come out publicly for Tony Blair's Labour, alongside other business worthies such as Gerry Robinson of Granada.

Mr Robinson got the Arts Council. Mr Bain lands the rather less glamorous Post Office. Hard luck. His winning qualifications may have been working for a quirky owner and a long career in consumer products, at Cadbury Schweppes. It is surely not a coincidence that he will replace Sir Michael Heron, who earned his spurs in strikingly similar fashion at Unilever.

Postman Nev's job appears to be exactly the same as preoccupied Postman Mike's five years at the helm: talking endlessly with ministers, civil servants, MPs, and consultants about how to change the PO's status. In Postman Mike's early days, a simple privatisation on the BT model was top of the agenda. But rural Tories rebelled and Michael Heseltine was ritually humiliated by the Cabinet.

Poignantly, John Roberts's predecessor as PO chief executive, Bill Cockburn, has climbed aboard the BT gravy train, via an overnight stop at WH Smith.

In opposition, Labour knew exactly what it was going to do with this last great state monopoly utility. It was to be given *financial freedom to modernise*, forge alliances, engage in risky projects. It was not going to be privatised but it would no longer have to hand over all its profits to a grasping Chancellor.

In government, Gordon Brown has proved the most grasping control freak anyone at the Treasury can remember. More sceptical minds have also noticed that only management and trade unions, which have between them made the Royal Mail Britain's strike capital, will benefit from a regime where they are accountable neither to shareholders nor to taxpayers, nor even to a powerful regulator.

So Margaret Beckett, at present the immediate shareholders' representative, found herself welcoming the help Mr Bain could give during the Government's "current review" of the Post Office. The new part-time chairman is a trained accountant and self-confessed expert on corporate governance. As a writer, he followed *Successful Management* with the more improbable *Winning Ways Through Corporate Governance*. Mr Bain will know that for non-executives to function effectively, they need a clear brief such as enhancing shareholder value, delivering the lowest prices or the highest cash flow to the Treasury. Something woolly such as the long-term health of the corporation just will not do. Even in "the third way" business *must* be accountable and freedom is only a dream.

Buffett on his mettle

On Thursday, Warren Buffett takes delivery of an awful lot of silver. The man who runs Berkshire Hathaway, the American fund, is still owed 42 million ounces after his spectacularly successful attempt to corner a big position in this much neglected commodity.

If the gold market often resembles a Monte Carlo casino patronised by slightly faded grande dames, then silver has all the style and substance of Reno, Nevada. Unlike gold, there is no liquidity in silver, hence the gyrations in the price of the metal, and a spike in loan rates.

Mr Buffett was buying from forward sellers, speculators who expected the price to fall and sold silver that they did not own. Mr Buffett's counterparties have been scurrying about looking for silver but there are few stockpiles. Most of the silver once held by central banks has ended up as jewellery in India. Lack of interest in this commodity has meant that silver loans were once as cheap as 50 basis points but recently soared to 80 per cent, falling back to a rate close to Libor, still very expensive.

But on Friday, this trading turmoil should come to an end, perhaps to be replaced by a gnawing anxiety about what Mr Buffett's long-term intentions might be. The metal has reasonable fundamental prospects. Until Mr Buffett threw his stetson in the ring, the expectation was that prices might slowly rise as the silver market has been in deficit for some years with total demand far exceeding mine output. India is the big consumer of silver with rising prosperity increasing the demand for jewellery, enough to soak up the stockpiles built up in the 1980s.

Asian currency jitters have clouded the picture, raising the prospect that Asian investors in need of cash might dump the metal which, like gold, is a useful store of value, a dollar proxy, for those holding depreciating bahts, ringgits and rupees. But neither Mr Buffett nor his Berkshire Hathaway investors are likely to regard inflation as the No. 1 threat. Anyone who acquires 20 per cent of a market must be assumed to have secured his exit or be intending to line his mattress. With no reputation as a short-term trader, the only conclusion is that Mr Buffett likes silver.

Stateside, they are funny about silver — remember Bunker Hunt — and Mr Buffett, like every American boy, may still own a silver dollar given to him on his birthday. Sentimentality is only a poor reason to invest if no one else shares your sentiment.

Bid battles suit investors best

Agreed bids are good for managers, hostile ones are good for shareholders. Nine months ago, the board of Energy Group agreed a 695p a share offer from PacifiCorp. The American group agreed that John Devaney and other executive directors should stay on.

After the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had its say — not a lot as it turned out — Energy Group's board agreed a bid of 765p. That seemingly impressive increase was marginally less than the rise in the FTSE 100 index in the meantime.

Then came competition and a bidding battle. At the time of writing, it has lifted the bid price to 840p. That is 10 per cent above the offer agreed four weeks ago and 21 per cent above what the board reckoned was a fair deal in June. Lucky for shareholders. Had it not been for the intervention of a third party, the bidding process would have failed to deliver shareholder value.

We cannot be sure just how much more PacifiCorp might have bid without the arrival of Texas if Mr Devaney and his colleagues had opted for a bare-knuckle fight. We can be pretty sure that they would not have been so welcome in PacifiCorp's camp after the war of words that would inevitably have ensued.

Happily, all has turned out right for Energy Group investors. Management has cannily backed both PacifiCorp and Texas at the right time, so bid competition has proved good for the board too. No wonder investors in SmithKline Beecham are biting the carpet in frustration.

You're all banned

TIME was when company directors were disqualified to protect the public, their sins being fraud or trading recklessly while insolvent. Peter Norris and Tony Hawes, the latest blackballed Barings bosses, were punished for incompetence, for failing to monitor Nick Leeson and ignoring warning signs, such as disgracefully high profits. Fair enough. But if such tests were applied rigorously, swathes of Britain's boardrooms would be emptied at a stroke.

EMU will aid Irish building, says CRH

BY CARL MORTISHED
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

CRH, the building materials group based in the Irish Republic, believes that the republic's participation in the first wave of European economic and monetary union will benefit the Irish construction market.

CRH's profits from activities in the republic grew 18 per cent last year, helping pre-tax profits to rise 26 per cent, to Ir£253 million (£211 million).

The Irish building sector accounts for 26 per cent of CRH's trading profit, and construction output increased 12 per cent during the year, mainly because of new housing starts, which reached 38,000, a record high for the country. Industry statistics suggest another strong year in 1998.

Harry Sheridan, finance director, said that CRH is assuming a 5 per cent rise in activity. He added that Britain's decision to stay out of the first EMU wave could redirect some inward investment from Britain to Ireland.

In Britain, CRH's Keyline builders' merchant chain is aiming for a 4 per cent return on sales in the current year. UK trading profit rose 37 per cent, to Ir£20 million. On the Continent, trading profits grew 3 per cent, to Ir£48 million.

There is a full-year dividend of Ir11.7p, up 15 per cent, from earnings per share of Ir50.24p, up 19 per cent. Tempus, page 26

National Power to take £130m hit on coal contracts

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHARES of National Power fell sharply yesterday after the company said it would take a £130 million hit from the termination of so-called "coal-backed" contracts this month.

The shares fell 31p to 587p after Britain's largest power generator said the adverse effect on profit margins of the new contracts would be more severe than most analysts had expected. Shares in rival PowerGen fell 29p to 803p, ScottishPower lost 15p to 517p, and British Energy — whose output is more guaranteed in the electricity market place — lost 7p to 442p.

The original contract, arranged by the Government five years ago, required regional electricity companies to pay more for power supplied by coal-backed power plants, a system that was meant to protect Britain's beleaguered coal mining sector.

The end of the coal-backed contracts gives the regional companies free rein to shop around for their power and will mean a margin squeeze for National Power this year. The company said that new contracts signed with regional companies would deliver price cuts of £12 per household.

However, this reduction is not new. Under supply price controls ordered by the regulator, electricity bills are already to be cut by £24 over two years.

The squeeze on National Power's margins signals lower electricity prices across the board. It could also indicate that National Power expects higher gas costs than the market had thought.

National Power also cautioned that this year's output would slip 5 per cent because of the mild winter. The generator said international developments would be doubled. Keith Henry, chief executive, said: "Over the next two years, we plan to double our annual rate of international investment to around £600 million, and we are currently pursuing projects with a capacity of over 25,000 megawatts." The company has so far invested £1.2 billion overseas in 8,500 megawatts of capacity.

National Power said it had secured most of its coal needs for this year and next year. The company is still talking to the Government as Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, tries to find a future for the coal industry once emergency contracts between RJB Mining and the generators end in June.



Keith Henry gave details of international investment

Tempus, page 26

Local press is thriving in the South

LOCAL and regional newspapers are continuing to achieve growth, at least in the south of England (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Southern Newspapers, which is based in Southampton, yesterday unveiled a 75.6 per cent increase in operating profit to £9.9 million on turnover up 25.6 per cent to £59.5 million for the six months to December.

James Sexton, chief executive, said there was no sign of the regional press running out of steam and the company was looking at growth in all its areas.

Analysts are now looking for about £19 million pre-tax profit for the full year.

Spring Ram returns to the dividend list

BY ADAM JONES

SPRING RAM, one of the fallen angels of the UK stock market, is to pay its first dividend since 1995.

The kitchens, bathrooms and cabinets group, said yesterday that it had made a profit of £500,000 before tax last year, compared with a loss of £36.8 million in 1996, when trading was hit by a £12.4 million exceptional charge.

The improvement came after the sale of some non-core businesses and the closure of a factory in the kitchens division. The group also cited better cost control and margin improvements. Turnover on continuing activities dipped from £254.9 million to £232.5 million. It is Spring Ram's first profit since 1994 and the group will pay a dividend of 0.1p per share on July 6.



Brown: new role

Roger Regan, the executive chairman who has presided over its restructuring programme, also announced the appointment of Steve Brown, chief executive of the kitchen division, as group chief executive. Mr Regan may, at some stage, take on more of a part-time role.

Mr Regan said trading in the first weeks of 1998 has been strong, with orders up 17 per cent on 1997. The group's plans to sell Stag, the cabinet maker, have been abandoned, however, after the subsidiary's weak trading in the second half of 1997.

The shares, which have risen sharply recently, closed 2p down at 203p.

Loss warning prunes Mulberry

BY KATHY LIPARI

SHARES in Mulberry Group, the troubled maker and retailer of luxury fashion and leather goods, fell 20½p to a low of 37p yesterday after the company issued its third profit warning in less than three months.

Roger Saul, chairman and chief executive, said that the company now expected, at best, a loss of £750,000, after exceptionals, in the year to March 31. A factory is to be shut with the loss of 28 jobs.

Mr Saul, who owns 60 per cent of the company, said: "It is bitterly disappointing to announce this news.

"With the actions already taken, we expect a significant turnaround in fortunes in the next financial year . . . and are budgeting to make a profit next year."

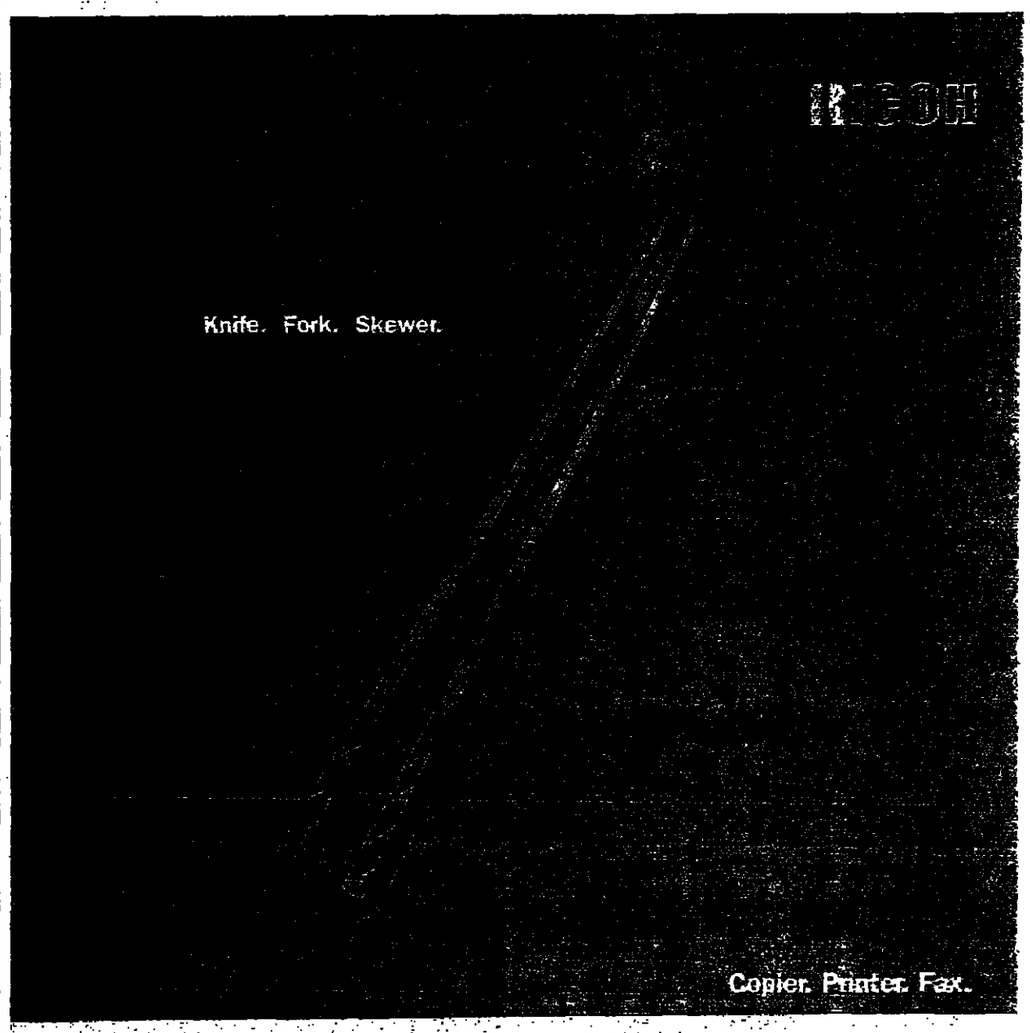
Exceptional costs of £200,000 would be incurred from the redundancies, which are to be mainly in production and administration.

In order to combat the impact of the strong pound, Mulberry has also decided to outsource its accessories production to Italy and Spain and it will also close its Somerton handbag factory.

Before yesterday's warning, analysts had expected pre-tax earnings of around £750,000, but two months ago expectations were as high as £2.8 million.

Mr Saul and Godfrey Davis, finance director, are to waive their interim dividends to save the company £71,000. The group said that it expects to be able to maintain its final dividend.

Mulberry shares joined the Alternative Investment Market in May 1996 at 153p.



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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK



Stock Market Writer of the Year

Safeway surges as Asda merger talk reignites

ARE merger talks between Asda and Safeway back on again? The late surge in the Safeway share price suggests this may be the case.

Safeway was the best performing company among the top 100 yesterday, with the price ending 24¼p better at 385p as almost ten million shares changed hands. **Asda**, by contrast, retreated 2½p to 200p on turnover of 3.8 million shares. Brokers chasing Safeway were last night claiming the price tells all.

In spite of recent denials to the contrary, City speculators are convinced that a merger of the two companies to form a business capitalised at more than £10 billion would make commercial sense. The proposed get together of rivals **Kwik Save**, ½p cheaper at 346½p, and **Somerfield**, unchanged at 301½p, will have helped to concentrate the minds of both managments. Previous talks, last year, between both sides were aborted. But dealers say that with **J Sainsbury**, up 7p at 473½p, and **Tesco**, 3p easier at 516p, continuing to increase market share, it now seems that further consolidation within the sector is inevitable.

The rest of the equity market showed signs of running out of steam after its latest record-breaking run, but still managed to hold above the 5,800 level. After staging a near 60-point turnaround, the FTSE 100 index finished 12.9 down at 5,807.7 as total turnover reached more than a billion shares.

But the undertone remains firm. The numerous share buybacks mean cash is still being ploughed back into the market, creating stock shortages. In addition, there is no sign that the flurry of mergers and takeovers is about to slow.

A case in point is the battle for control of **The Energy Group**, up 32p at 838p. It continued to intensify after Texas Utilities bounced back and raised its offer from 810p to 840p a share. It was accompanied by a dawn raid carried out by Merrill Lynch, the broker, on its behalf which netted 72.56 million shares, or 13.9 per cent of The Energy Group, and stretched turnover in the shares to 81.12 million.

On Monday, Texas Utilities made an agreed offer worth 810p a share. Pacificorp reacted within hours raising its own offer from 765p to 820p, while snapping up 8.8 per cent of The Energy Group in the market. The latest Texas offer values Energy at £4.45 billion.

Southern Electric, which has already been the subject of several abortive offers, is seen as the next bid target. It rose 10p to 540p. Among the water companies, **Anglian** rose 11½p to 840p, **Hyder** 13½p to 953½p, and **Thames** 3p to 888p.

The proposed £1 billion buyback of shares by the **Halifax** is good news for shareholders, but it failed to benefit the price which ended 25p lower at 952p. **Norwich Union**, down 18p at 505p, was thought to be a target for the Halifax.

Elsewhere in the sector, **Barclays** retreated 34p to £17.96 after spending £18.17 million buying back 996,153 of its own shares at £18.23. **Abbey National** also lost 19p at £12.43, **Lloyds TSB** 31p at 906p, and **Northern Rock** 10½p at 650½p. Even **Standard Chartered** lost 7p at 888p in spite of reports, later denied, that Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, the Singaporean businessman, had put his 15 per cent stake up for sale.

Cadbury Schweppes rose 13½p to 789½p ahead of figures today. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, rates the shares a "long-term" buy.

MR Group finished 11½p down at 128½p in spite of a rise of nearly one-third to £3 million in pre-tax profits during the first six months of the year. Brokers blamed the setback for the information and technology group on profit taking.

Shares of **Arriva**, the bus company, went into reverse, ending 9p down at 435½p, after reports that SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, had downgraded its recommendation from "add" to "hold". **Stagecoach** now seems to be the investment vehicle Warburg favours, which has been moved from "hold" to "buy". It responded with a rise of 14p to 831½p.

The failure to meet City forecasts left **Delphi Group** nursing a loss of 124p at 703½p. The information and technology provider plans to proceed with a Nasdaq listing for its shares when conditions are more favourable.

□ **GILT-EDGED**: A sell-off of US Treasury bonds undermined bond prices in London where investors are anxiously awaiting the outcome of this week's meeting of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

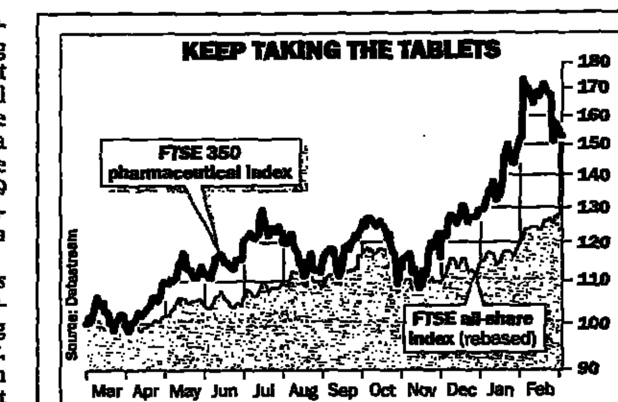
In the futures pit, the June series of the Long Gilt ended £$^{17}/_{32}$ lower at £106$^{13}/_{16}$, as the total number of contracts completed reached 74,000. The five-year bond future also lost ground in thin trading ending £0.22 down at £101.97 on turnover of 2,300 contracts.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 lost £$^{31}/_{32}$ at £124$^{7}/_{16}$, while among shorter dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2002 finished £$^{3}/_{16}$ lower at £102$^{5}/_{16}$.

□ **NEW YORK**: Shares were weaker with the computer sector sagging after a downgrading of Compaq and a forecast of new lows in the semiconductor industry. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 14.70 points at 8,535.75.



Mark Hooper, the finance director, back, with Colin Haycock, chairman of MR Group, down 11½p to 128½p



AN EERY calm appears to have settled over the pharmaceutical sector with City speculators becoming increasingly pessimistic about the prospect of merger talks between Glaxo Wellcome, 6p off at £16.48, and SmithKline Beecham, 6p cheaper, at 738p, being reinitiated.

Brokers say the deal would have made commercial sense and provided useful cost savings.

But speculation that Glaxo will make an aggressive bid for SmithKline appears to be wishful thinking. This is in spite of intense pressure on both companies from institutional shareholders anxious to see the deal concluded. Both sides say they have healthy futures as independent companies.

The City remains unconvinced and there is a speculative premium underpinning the sector.

"Were there to be no mergers in the next six months, valuations would still be too high. The upside from here would not be that great if a deal actually went through", says Mark Becker at JP Morgan, the US investment bank.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	8535.75 (-14.70)
S&P Composite	1046.50 (-1.20)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	17168.33 (-96.01)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11425.46 (+106.62)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	1079.77 (-10.44)

Sydney:

AO	2684.40 (-13.50)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4757.14 (+20.40)

Singapore:

Straits	1592.88 (-17.76)

Brussels:

General	16079.34 (+55.83)

Paris:

CAC-40	3414.17 (-31.83)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1428.50 (-4.80)

London:

FT 30	3596.0 (+2.2)
FTSE 100	5807.7 (-12.9)
FTSE 250	5281.4 (+26.8)
FTSE 350	2780.0 (-2.40)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2613.25 (-10.49)
FTSE All-Share	2705.97 (-1.84)
FTSE Non Financials	2666.19 (+6.52)
FTSE Fixed Interest	139.74 (-0.15)
FTSE Govt Secs	103.14 (-0.42)
Bargains	78150
SEAQ Volume	1027.7m
US$	1.6528 (+0.0049)
German Mark	2.9894 (+0.0031)
Exchange Index	105.3 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5132
£:SDR	1.2202
RPI	159.5 Jan (3.3%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.7 Jan (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Athlone Extrusions	87		...
Bass B	96½	-	1½
Diageo B	515½	-	1½
Eurotunnel 01/03 Wts	12	+	½
Monsoon	198		...
Quadrant Health	129	-	½
Sanctuary Warrants	4¼	-	½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Minerva n/p (190)	25	+	6
Wates City n/p (94)	103½		...

RISES AND FALLS

RISES:	
Sherwd Intl	690p (+82½p)
Macdonald Htles	208p (+17½p)
Havelock Euro	155p (+12½p)
Inspec	224½p (+17p)
Safeway	385p (+24¼p)
Gaskell	480p (+30p)
Inchcape	226p (+14p)
Laporte	723½p (+40p)
Hamleys	239p (+11½p)
Smith David	210½p (+10p)
Compass Gp	928p (+40p)
Fairey Gp	581½p (+25p)
More Gp	822½p (+35p)
EMI	540p (+22p)
Wolseley	550p (+21p)
Charter	656p (+22½p)
Brewin Dolphin	350½p (+12p)
Br Borneo	359p (+10p)

FALLS:	
Delphi	703½p (-124p)
Blue Circle	370p (-24p)
Biocomps Intl	177½p (-10p)
Diploma	234p (-12½p)
DCS Gp	495p (-22p)
Danka Bs Sys	259p (-10p)
Norwich Union	505p (-18p)
Lloyds TSB	906p (-31p)
Jarvis	582½p (-19p)
Shield Diag	812½p (-20p)
Enterprise	572p (-15½p)
Halifax	952p (-25p)
BBA	433½p (-10p)
TI	535p (-12p)
AB Food	635p (-11½p)
Trust Motor Gp	200p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

Powerful competition

NATIONAL POWER delivered a nasty shock to generators' shares yesterday — with the exception, of course, of the much sought-after Energy Group. The UK's largest generator said that it faces a £130 million hit as the lucrative coal-backed contracts with the regional electricity companies are unwound after five years. The ending of the original coal contracts and concurrent arrangements with the regional companies — struck when British Coal was being prepared for privatisation — signals a new game in the electricity market and, for once, one that the generators are not bound to win hands down.

Releasing the regional companies from their previous commitments will allow them to shop around for their power more effectively. They will not allow the generators simply to pass on reductions from the cheaper coal now available. The regional companies want a bigger slice of the cake than that.

Everyone knew that ending the contracts would take its toll on the generators but the general slide in the share price shows that the margin squeeze is more than anticipated. Electricity generation prices — long the centre of controversy for failing to show evidence of competition — are now coming under the cosh.

National Power is better placed than the others to weather margin pressure at home as its expanding international programme offers substantial shelter. It still has to convince investors that these overseas activities, many at an early stage, can deliver adequate growth to offset shrinkage at home.

With so much other uncertainty facing the power market, the shares are probably best viewed as a spectator sport.

Halifax

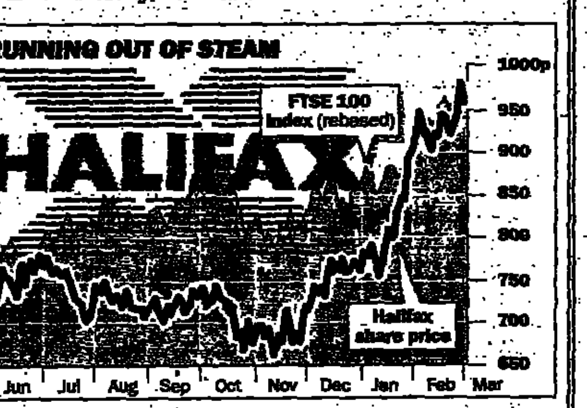
JON FOULDS and Mike Blackburn, the jovial double act that lead Halifax, had some difficulty justifying the £1 billion share buy-back they plan over the next year.

They argue that spending a quarter of the company's surplus cash on buying in stock will do more for earnings than buying another company. It is difficult to see why since those shares are currently trading on 20 times earnings. Halifax, now a £24 billion bank, also hopes a share buy-back will underpin the price for the remaining shareholders, as well as increasing the earnings per share.

However, in 12 months, the Halifax may still not have been able to make a meaningful dent in its surplus capital. After its recent dizzy rise, it may become reluctant to pay the market price.

The cash on the balance-sheet will earn returns of about 7 per cent, while many believe that financial stocks, Halifax's acquisition targets, driven by low interest rates and low inflation will continue to outperform. Halifax also needs to diversify its business as the margins on its core mortgage business are sure to narrow.

If the bank really cannot find a partner, then perhaps a much better way of dealing with the surplus is to pay it back via a special dividend to shareholders, most of whom are retail investors. The shares remain a decent hold.



CRH

CRH is the dream machine of the building materials sector, boasting average returns of 21 per cent since 1970. Credit is due to the conservative management which in the 1970s looked beyond Ireland to buy up small quarrying and concrete businesses on the cheap. Today, its markets stretch from Argentina to Poland but, ironically, the engine that drives earnings is again Ireland.

CRH has sounded another note of caution about Irish construction output, but growth was 12 per cent last year and forecasts suggest 8.5 per cent is achievable this year. European regional grants, agricultural subsidies, and high foreign investment make Ireland a builder's paradise. Per head, itis building new homes at three times the rate of the UK and cement consumption is more than twice the European average. CRH has 60 per cent of this market. The tax regime is also highly favourable, making Ireland's 26 per cent contribution to group trading profits much more valuable for earnings.

The Celtic tiger poses a problem. CRH has still to wring such exotic returns from Eastern Europe or Latin America and, inevitably, Ireland will lose its subsidies, tax regimes will harmonise and the pace of growth will slow.

With the shares rated at 17 times earnings, CRH investors are betting that something will fill the gap. But for now, it looks too late to buy.

Delphi

No awards for far-sighted management will be winging their way towards Delphi this year. A poor fourth quarter — barely recognised in yesterday's statement — was blamed on too many of its American IT contractors taking their holiday entitlements, thus reducing the number of chargeable hours. Delphi's financial controls failed to pick this up until too late, and profits missed forecasts by £1.4 million.

The shares crashed 124p to 703½p — another example of the risks of disappointments in the highly-rated IT sector.

Apparently obvious management oversights do not inspire confidence in a company that retains its appetite for acquisitions. In the face of investor unhappiness, Delphi has shelved its plans for a Nasdaq listing that was intended to raise £35 million. But it still contemplates issuing more shares in the UK if it finds a big enough purchase. Delphi looks to have enough work coping with the rapid growth of its contracting business.

Beeson Gregory is forecasting profits of £18.3 million this year, or 41.2p of earnings. Although the multiple has dropped back to 17, investors should still seek safer homes for their money.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1035-1033	May	1160-1159
May	1052-1051	Jul	1178-1170
Jul	1071-1070	Sep	1197-1192
Sep	1091-1089	Dec	unq
Dec	1115-1114		
Mar	1142-1141	Volume:	4816

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1662-1658	Nov	1605-1595
May	1660-1656	Jan	1585-1575
Jul	1637-1633	Mar	1565-1555
Sep	1625-1615	Volume:	n/a

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	285.5-84.0
Spot: 276.0		Mar	288.5-87.0
May	276.5-76.3	May	292.5-88.0
Aug	280.5-80.0	Aug	299.5-99.1
Oct	281.5-81.0	Volume:	4528

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 2

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	72.43	76.71	87.49
(+/-)	+2.40	-0.98	-1.12
Eng/Wales:	72.48	77.54	87.11
(+/-)	+2.45	-0.66	-1.16
(%)	-15.0	+4.0	-7.0
Scotland:	71.19	75.82	90.93
(+/-)	+1.28	-0.99	-0.83
(%)	-9.0	+7.0	-7.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	13.25	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Apr)	14.05	-0.10
Brent 15 day (May)	14.35	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	15.35	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (May)	15.70	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	162 (-1)	165 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	130 (-1)	131 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	67 (-1)	69 (n/c)
Naphtha	150 (n/c)	152 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	131.50-31.75	Jun	139.00-39.25
Apr	133.50-33.75	Jul	142.00-42.25
May	136.00-36.25	Vol:	15135

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	14.00-14.01	Jul	15.00-15.06
May	14.38-14.39	Aug	15.34-15.38
Jun	14.72-14.75	Vol:	29737

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	77.25	Mar	73.50
May	79.25	May	75.50
Jul	81.25	Sep	75.25
Sep	78.25	Nov	77.25
Nov	80.25	Jan	79.25
Volume:	608	Volume:	32

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	70.0
Apr	65.0	65.0
May	73.0	71.0
	Volume:	53

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Apr 48.75-49.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 98	1135	1130	1135
Apr 98	1175	1170	1175
May 98	—	—	1165
Oct 98	1160	1160	1160
Vol: 41 lots		Open Interest:	1471

Index 1096 +6

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1734.5-1735.0	1757.0-1758.0	1636075
Lead ($/tonne)	546.50-547.50	554.00-554.50	210200
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1035.5-1036.5	1061.0-1062.0	470825
Tin ($/tonne)	5445.0-5455.0	5445.0-5450.0	14330
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1459.0-1459.5	1474.0-1474.5	1561525
Nickel ($/tonne)	5310.0-5320.0	5410.0-5420.0	128646

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
ASDA	200	9½	18	25	8	13	16
(*200)	220	3	9½	17	21½	25	27½
Abbey Nat	1200	76½	125	164	53	82	107½
(*1236)	1250	52	100	139½	79	107	132½
AllLeic	950	47½	78	99	46	68½	79½
(*952)	1000	26	56½	76½	76½	97½	107½
Alld Dom	550	39½	53	70½	17	32½	37
(*558½)	600	17½	34	47½	44	60	64
BAA	560	30	46½	61½	20	32½	38
(*560)	600	10½	24	39	49	60½	65½
BAT Ind	600	52½	71½	86	15	30	44
(*643½)	650	23	44½	61	38½	53	68
Barclays	1700	145½	217½	255	37	82	103½
(*1723)	1800	87	164	204½	78½	128	150½
Bass	957	66	93	115	17	39½	50½
(*1000)	1013	34	63½	85½	40½	66	77
Boots	900	42½	68	89	29½	51½	62½
(*908½)	950	23	46	66	58½	79½	90
Br Airways	550	29	48	68	19½	38	45
(*557½)	600	10	27	47	49	66	73½
BP	850	42½	72	95½	26½	48	57½
(*853)	900	21½	49	71½	54½	74½	83½
Br Steel	140	14	19½	22	3	9	11½
(*150½)	160	4½	9½	13	12	20	23
C&W	650	46½	71½	94	23½	43	55
(*670)	700	33½	48½	69½	50½	69½	80½
CU	1050	53½	108	116½	49	86½	93
(*1067)	1100	32½	84½	93	78½	113	113½
GlaxoW	1600	108	178	216½	44½	83½	115
(*1648½)	1700	62½	127½	166½	93½	127½	163½
HSBC	1800	152½	246½	294	79	144½	175½
(*1889)	1900	103½	193	247	129½	195½	225½
Halifax	950	41	85	102½	50	71	81½
(*952)	1000	23½	64	81	82	100½	110
ICI	1100	52	94	116½	39	84	80½
(*1106½)	1150	30	68	91½	67	88½	105½
Land Sec	1100	64	85½	113½	31	50	61½
(*1127)	1150	38	60	87	55½	75	88
M&S	550	38½	51	66½	11	24½	32
(*570)	600	13	27½	42½	37½	51½	58
Nat Pwr	550	54½	66½	75½	13	29½	38
(*580½)	600	29½	42	51½	36	56	64½
Nat West	1100	79½	124	145½	42	72½	91
(*1124)	1150	55½	99½	121	67	97½	115
Reuters	588	43½	67½	88	20	33	47
(*618)	645	18½	41½	61½	51½	64	78½
Pru&Sun	750	42½	75½	95½	39	57	71½
(*766½)	800	21½	52½	72½	68	84½	98
Safeway	360	26	40	50½	12½	27	34
(*375)	390	10½	28	38	27½	42	48½
Sainsbury	480	27½	38½	51	9	24½	27
(*473)	500	9	21	32½	31	46½	48½
Shell	420	27	37	48	3	20	27
(*436½)	460	9	19½	30½	29	41½	48½
SmKl Bch	700	62	89½	111	19	38½	52½
(*737)	750	35	64½	85½	40	61	77
Std Chtr	850	78	132½	159½	50	90	108
(*887½)	900	57	114½	137	75½	116½	132
Thames W	850	53½	79½	88½	11	31	39½
(*886)	900	25½	51½	62	32	55	69½
Vodafone	550	31½	54	74½	27	44½	54
(*551)	600	13	34	53	58½	73½	82½
Woolwich	360	24	38½	45½	12½	22	28
(*373)	390	10½	23	33½	29	38½	44
Zeneca	2600	138½	237½	308	85	148½	191
(*2650)	2700	90½	187½	257½	140	198	239½

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
BTR	180	17½	25½	30½	12	17	20½
(*191)	200	10	17	22	23½	28	31½
Blue Circ	360	22½	34½	43	24	26	31
(*365)	390	10	22	31	42½	44	48½
Br Aero	1800	164½	232	282	56	92½	121
(*1845½)	1900	113½	178	232	100½	137	164½
Br Telcm	600	44	62	71½	21	32½	39½
(*616½)	650	21	38½	48	48	58½	65½
Cadbury	750	57½	77½	92	25	34½	44½
(*784½)	800	32½	51½	65½	50	59	68
Energy Gp	800	44	45	49	4	8	8½
(*837½)	850	8	16½	10	19	34½	28½
Grafton	330	35½	41	46½	10½	14½	21
(*356)	360	17½	24½	31	25	28½	35½
GEC	390	39	48½	56	9	16	20½
(*416)	420	21½	31½	40	21½	28½	34½

	Series	Calls May			Puts May		
Diageo PLC	613	51	—	—	15	—	—
(*650)	671	23½	—	—	44	—	—

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Diageo PLC	613	52	69	—	17½	25	—
(*650)	671	23	39½	—	47½	53	—
Hanson	300	24½	32	38½	13	15	18½
(*312)	330	11½	19	25½	30	31½	35
Imp Tob	430	31½	40	43	15	23	26½
(*431)	460	14½	22½	30½	37½	45	48½
Kingfshr	1050	55½	84½	104	52	68	78
(*1051)	1100	35	61½	81½	82½	99½	106
Lasmo	280	23½	32	32½	12	18	20½
(*290)	300	14½	23	29½	22	28½	30½
Ladbroke	300	24½	35½	44½	14	19	23½
(*311½)	330	11½	23	31	31	35	39
LucasVar	220	27	33½	37½	7	11½	14
(*239½)	240	15½	23	29½	15	21	23½
P&O	750	64½	80	93	19½	29½	40½
(*797)	800	33½	52½	65½	42½	52½	63
Prudentl	900	68½	96½	119½	55½	73	88½
(*914)	950	45	73	95½	84	99½	114
Rio Tinto	800	67	94	111½	31½	45½	58
(*847)	850	41½	69	86	56½	70	82
Redland	330	19½	25½	—	½	0½	—
(*344)	360	1½	9½	—	16	16	—
R-Royce	220	27	35	40	18½	14½	19½
(*238)	240	18½	26	30	17½	24	25
Tesco	500	34½	51	60½	17	25½	31
(*512)	550	12½	28½	38	47½	53	56
Utd Bisc	260	23	30	35	8½	12	16
(*276½)	280	12½	19½	25	18	21½	25½

	Series	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
BG PLC	300	10½	23½	—	7	18½	—
(*309½)	330	3	13½	22½	22½	31½	36
BSkyB	420	18	42½	52	10½	27	31½
(*425)	460	4	26½	36	37	50	54
Br Bio	90	8	20	28½	6	12½	19
(*93)	100	4	16½	22½	12	18	25
Centrica	110	5	9½	13½	3½	7½	9½
(*110)	120	1½	6	9½	10½	13½	15
Dixons	500	45½	67½	76½	1½	15	21½
(*542)	550	12	39	49	17½	35½	43½
EMI	520	31½	—	—	9	—	—
(*542½)	548	16	—	—	21	—	—
Granada	950	28½	65½	90	15	33½	58½
(*957½)	1000	9½	41½	65½	45½	66½	82½
GUS	750	53½	86½	107	5	24½	34½
(*799)	800	18½	57	79½	22½	45½	56½
Llyds TSB	900	33	80	104½	26½	57	73½
(*904)	950	13	57	80½	56½	84	99½
Lonrho	90	7	13½	16	3	6½	9½
(*94½)	100	2½	8½	11½	8½	12	15
Norwich	500	21	41	58½	12	33	39½
(*505½)	550	4	21	35½	48½	63½	69
Orange	330	22	41	53	7½	22	27½
(*346)	360	6½	26	38½	22	38½	43
Railtrck	900	48½	98½	120	18½	48½	61
(*926½)	950	23½	72½	95	41½	71½	85½
Scot Pwr	500	23	47½	60	6	21½	33
(*518½)	550	4½	25	40	36	48½	60
Tarmac	100	7½	12	14	1	3½	5
(*106½)	110	2	7½	9	5	8	10
Tomkins	330	26½	39½	48	1	8½	14
(*354½)	360	8½	22	29	11	26½	27½
Unilever	550	21	42½	57	6½	25	34½
(*562½)	600	2½	20½	34	39½	53½	61

March 3 Total: 28183 Calls: 16823 Puts: 11362

FTSE INDEX (*5798½)

Strike	Calls Mar	Calls Apr	Calls May	Calls Jun	Calls Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Apr	Puts May	Puts Jun	Puts Dec
5600	242½	304½	357½	416½	677	26	79½	113	145½	290½
5650	200	267½	320	383	—	33½	90	125½	161	—
5700	161½	230½	288½	351½	617	47	103	143½	179½	329½
5750	123½	200½	257½	319½	—	61½	123	162½	197½	—
5800	94	170½	227	289	557	82½	142	181½	216½	368½
5850	67	141	195	257	—	107½	163	201½	236	—
5900	45½	119½	171	229½	499	138	191	227½	260½	410½
5950	30½	98	149½	207	—	174½	219½	255	287½	—

March 3 Total: 9344 Calls: 7086 Puts: 2258 *Underlying security price

FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 98	122-31	122-31	122-11	122-15	10150
Previous open interest 211192	Jun 98	107-07	107-09	106-20	106-26	75393
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 98	107.69	107.81	107.34	107.45	210803
Previous open interest 282242	Jun 98	107.08	107.23	106.77	106.87	148816
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Mar 98	105.46	105.52	105.46	105.43	1791
Previous open interest 5483	Jun 98	105.22	105.22	105.22	105.11	82
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 98	118.74	119.14	118.61	118.73	83252
Previous open interest 146740	Jun 98	118.40	118.81	118.26	118.41	100731
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98	129.82	130.03	129.82	129.95	2082
	Jun 98	129.56	129.73	129.56	129.65	2683
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 98	92.42	92.42	92.38	92.39	47758
	Jun 98	92.49	92.50	92.46	92.46	50989
Previous open interest 832635	Sep 98	92.63	92.65	92.60	92.61	14853
Three Mth Euromark	Mar 98	96.48	96.48	96.47	96.47	27871
Previous open interest 2229691	Jun 98	96.34	96.38	96.34	96.34	82562
Three Mth Eurolira	Mar 98	94.09	94.16	94.09	94.14	30874
Previous open interest 874410	Jun 98	95.21	95.32	95.21	95.26	91932
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 98	98.94	98.98	98.91	98.93	11289
Previous open interest 177011	Jun 98	98.79	98.82	98.68	98.71	14353
Three Mth ECU	Mar 98	95.68	95.70	95.68	95.68	119
Previous open interest 38859	Jun 98	95.75	95.76	95.74	95.74	216
FTSE 100	Mar 98	5825.0	5848.0	5790.0	5810.0	9847
Previous open interest 18242	Jun 98	5885.0	5911.0	5864.0	5879.0	5179

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8 Low 6½ Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7; 3 mth 6¹⁵⁄₁₆. Sell: 2 mth 7; 3 mth: 6¹⁵⁄₁₆.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	7¹¹⁄₃₂-7⁹⁄₃₂	7¹¹⁄₃₂-7⁹⁄₃₂	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7½-7⅜	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7½
Interbank:	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7⁹⁄₃₂	7½-7⅜	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜

Overnight: open 7¼, close 7¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	7½	n/a	7½	7½	7½
Sterling CDs:	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7⁹⁄₁₆-7½
Dollar CDs:	5.58	n/a	5.59	5.61	5.74
Building Society CDs:	7½-7⅜	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹³⁄₃₂	7½-7⅜

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	5⅝-5½	5½-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⁹⁄₁₆-3⁷⁄₁₆	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	3½-3½	4-3
French Franc:	3⁹⁄₁₆-3⁷⁄₁₆	3½-3⅜	3⁹⁄₁₆-3⁷⁄₁₆	3½-3⅜	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	1-⅞	1-⅞	1⅛-1	1½-½
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD / PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open $297.80-298.10 Close: $296.80-297.30 High: $298.80-299.30
Low: $296.60-297.10 AM: $297.65 PM: $297.00

Krugerrand: $301.00-303.00 (£184.00-186.00)

Platinum: $384.00 (£232.75) Silver: $6.405 (£3.875) Palladium: $234.50 (£142.10)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 3	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3640-3.3745	3.3680-3.3709	1¼-1⅛pr	3½-3¼pr
Brussels	61.580-61.800	61.627-61.730	23-18pr	63-56pr
Copenhagen	11.372-11.413	11.389-11.399	¼-½pr	1½-1pr
Dublin	1.2005-1.2070	1.2038-1.2063	16-9pr	44-37pr
Frankfurt	2.9848-2.9941	2.9882-2.9908	1¼-1pr	3-2¾pr
Lisbon	305.41-306.48	305.93-306.28	¼-½pr	2½-2¼pr
Madrid	252.99-253.78	253.36-253.80	68-57pr	197-179pr
Milan	2940.9-2945.1	2940.9-2945.1	44-28pr	130-108pr
Montreal	2.3331-2.3456	2.3433-2.3456	0.58-0.53pr	1.08-0.66pr
New York	1.6456-1.6532	1.6522-1.6532	0.273-0.252pr	0.773-0.742pr
Oslo	12.447-12.504	12.457-12.472	½-¼pr	1½-1pr
Paris	10.004-10.041	10.022-10.030	¾-½pr	1¾-½pr
Stockholm	13.158-13.197	13.181-13.197	¼-½pr	¼-½pr
Tokyo	207.51-208.25	208.01-208.25	1¼-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr
Vienna	20.998-21.068	21.023-21.042	¼-½pr	2¼-1½pr
Zurich	2.4170-2.4266	2.4234-2.4266	1½-1¼pr	4-3½pr

Source: Extel. Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Australia	1.4705-1.4716
Austria	12.72-12.73
Belgium (Com)	37.33-37.35
Canada	1.4185-1.4190
Denmark	6.9877-6.8997
France	6.0685-6.0695
Germany	1.8100-1.8110
Hong Kong	7.7423-7.7433
Ireland	1.3689-1.3739
Italy	1781.75-1782.75
Japan	126.00-126.10
Malaysia	3.7600-3.7900
Netherlands	2.0399-2.0404
Norway	7.5454-7.5530
Portugal	185.31-185.41
Singapore	1.6270-1.6300
Spain	153.40-153.50
Sweden	7.9833-7.9933
Switzerland	1.4665-1.4675

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina peso*	1.6508-1.6535
Australia dollar	2.4245-2.4296
Bahrain dinar	0.6140-0.6280
Brazil real*	1.8655-1.8684
China yuan	13.504-13.804
Cyprus pound	0.8670-0.8860
Finland markka	9.0075-9.1485
Greece drachma	467.75-478.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.7740-12.7834
India rupee	64.40-65.70
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4970-0.5080
Malaysia ringgit	6.2036-6.2569
New Zealand dollar	2.8098-2.8145
Pakistan rupee	71.00 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9325-6.0675
Singapore dollar	2.6841-2.6906
S Africa rand (com)	8.0470-8.2160
U A E dirham	5.9850-6.1210

Barclays Treasury Lloyds Bank*

MAJOR STOCKS VOLUME

3i	1,900	Land Secs	601
AMVESCAP	1,100	Legal & Gn	1,800
ASDA Gp	3,800	Lloyds TSB	10,200
Abbey Ntl	7,200	LucasVarity	5,200
Allnce & Leic	1,000	Marks Spr	7,000
Allied Dom	1,200	NatWst Bk	5,500
AB Foods	641	Nat Grid	2,400
BAA	2,200	Nat Power	18,500
BAT Inds	7,000	Next	2,600
BG	6,300	Norwich Un	4,400
BOC	678	Nycmd Amer	182
BP	9,000	Orange	779
BSkyB	5,700	P & O	2,000
BTR	23,600	Pearson	1,100
BT	8,800	PowerGen	2,900
Bk of Scot	1,500	Prudential	3,000
Barclays	2,400	Railtrack	3,500
Bass	1,500	Rank Group	1,900
Billiton	6,500	Reckitt Col	392
Blue Circle	3,800	Reed Intl	2,800
Boots	1,600	Rentokil	6,100
BAe	893	Reuters	14,700
BA	4,700	Rio Tinto	1,800
Brith Energy	1,400	Rolls Royce	5,500
British Land	408	Royal & Sun	2,800
Brit Steel	3,800	Royal Bk Sct	2,300
Cable Wire	4,800	Safeway	9,800
Cadbury	3,200	Sainsbury	3,300
Carlton Cms	1,100	Schroders	125
Centrica	12,400	Scot & New	1,100
Cm Union	1,600	Scot Power	3,100
Diageo	5,300	Svrn Trent	412
Dixons	1,000	Shell Trans	12,100
EMI	9,300	Siebe	1,100
Energy Gp	81,100	SmKl Bch	11,000
Enterpr Oil	1,100	Smiths Inds	1,200
GKN	411	Std Chartd	3,700
GRE	3,800	Sun Life & P	347
GUS	1,400	Tesco	4,000
Gen Acc	1,400	Thames W	881
Gen Elec	10,000	Tomkins	3,500
Glaxo Well	6,000	Unilever	5,900
Granada	1,700	Utd Utilities	1,400
HSBC	4,700	Utd News	1,000
Halifax	26,800	Vodafone	4,300
Hays	590	Whitbread	1,900
ICI	3,000	Williams	2,300
Kingfisher	1,300	Wolseley	770
LASMO	2,100	Woolwich	2,700
Ladbroke	2,000	Zeneca	1,000

NEW YORK

	Mar 3 midday	Mar 2 close
AMP Inc	43¾	44½
AMR Corp	131	128
AT & T	61¼	60½
Abbott Labs	75½	75¾
Advanced Micro	21⅛	22¼
Aetna Life	86½	86½
Ahmanson (HF)	61½	61⅛
Air Prod & Chem	83¼	83⅛
AirTouch Comm	44¼	44⅞
Albertson's	48¼	48
Alcan Aluminum	30¼	30¼
Allied Signal	42	42¼
Alum Co of Am	72½	70½
Amerada Hess	59⅛	59¼
AEP	48¼	48¼
Amer Express	92¼	91½
Amer Genl Corp	58½	58¼
Amer Home Pr	93¼	93½
Amer Intl	120	120¼
Amer Stores	25	25
Amer Standard	45	44⅛
Ameritech	43¾	43⅛
Amgen	52⅛	52⅛
Amoco	86¼	86¼
Andrew Corp	28	28¼
Anheuser-Busch	46¼	46½
Apple Computer	22¼	22¼
Archer Daniels	22⅛	22¼
Armco	5¼	5¼
Armstrng Wrld	78½	77½
Asarco	22¼	22⅛
Atl Richfield	79¼	78⅛
Atmel Corp	16¼	16¼
Auto Data Pro	62	61½
Avery Dennison	50¼	50
Avon Products	70¼	69¼
Baker Hughes	42¼	41⅛
Baltim Gas & El	31¼	31¼
Banc One	56¼	56¼
BankAmerica	77⅛	76¼
Bank of NY	59¼	58¼
Bankers Tr NY	117⅛	117¼
Bausch & Lomb	44¼	44⅛
Baxter Intl	56⅛	55¼
Becton Dicknsn	62¼	62¼
Bell Atlantic	92⅛	92¼
BellSouth	61⅛	61⅛
Best Foods	104⅛	104⅛
Black & Decker	48¼	50¼
Block (H&R)	46¼	46¼
Boeing	55¼	52⅛
Boise Cascade	33⅛	33¼
Boston Scien	59¼	59¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	102⅛	101¼
Browning Ferris	32⅛	32¼
Brunswick	31¼	31¼
Burlington Nthn	101⅛	100¼
CMS Energy Corp	44⅛	44⅛
CSX	56⅛	56⅛
CBS Corp	31¼	31¼
Campbell Soup	58⅛	58¼
Carolina Pwr	41⅛	41⅛
Case Corp	65⅛	65
Caterpillar	53¼	53⅛
Central & SW	26⅛	26⅛
Champion Intl	51⅛	51⅛
Chase Manhtn	124	123⅛
Chevron Corp	82⅛	82⅛
Chrysler	39⅛	39⅛
Chubb Corp	79⅛	79⅛
Cigna Corp	192⅛	192⅛
Citicorp	133⅛	133⅛
Clorox	88¼	87⅛
Coastal Corp	64¼	64¼
Coca Cola	68	68
Coca Cola Ent	38	38
Colgate-Palm	80⅛	81¼
Columbia Energy	75⅛	76¼
ColumbiaHCA	27	27⅛
Compaq Comp	29⅛	31⅛
Comp Ass Intl	46¼	46¼
Conrail	30¼	30¼
Cons Edison	42⅛	42⅛
Cons Nat Gas	57⅛	57⅛
Cooper Inds	58⅛	58⅛
Corestates	83⅛	84¼
Corning Inc	41⅛	40⅛
Cwide Credit	44⅛	45¼
Crestar Finl	59⅛	59⅛
Crown Cork	54⅛	54⅛
Dana Corp	59⅛	58¼
Dayton Hudson	79⅛	77⅛
Deere	56⅛	57
Delta Air Lines	115⅛	113¼
Deluxe Corp	33⅛	35¼
Digital Equip	54⅛	55¼
Dillard Dept St	35¼	35¼
Disney (Walt)	110⅛	109⅛
Dominion Res	40⅛	40⅛
Donnelley (RR)	39¼	39⅛
Dover Corp	38⅛	38⅛
Dow Chemical	91⅛	91⅛
Dow Jones	51¼	51¼
Dresser	46⅛	45¼
Duke Energy	55⅛	55⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	33⅛	33⅛
Du Pont	63⅛	62⅛
Eastman Chem	66⅛	65⅛
Eastman Kodak	66⅛	67¼
Eaton Corp	95	95⅛
Edison Int	27¼	27¼
Elect Data Sys	42⅛	43⅛
Emerson Elec	63⅛	64¼
Engelhard Corp	18⅛	18⅛
Enron Corp	47	46¼
Entergy	28⅛	28⅛
Ethyl Corp	8⅛	8⅛
Exxon	65⅛	65¼
FDX Holding	64¼	65¼
FMC Corp	72⅛	73¼
FPL Group	58⅛	57⅛
Fifth Third Banc	78⅛	78⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	77⅛	78
Fluor Corp	48¼	47¼
Ford Motor	58⅛	56⅛
Fort James	44⅛	45¼
Fortune Brands	39¼	39¼
Franklin Res	51⅛	50⅛
GTE Corp	54¼	54⅛
Gannett	63¼	63¼
Gap Inc Del	49¼	44¼
Gateway 2000	40¼	41⅛
Gen Dynamics	85¼	86
Gen Electric	76⅛	76⅛
Gen Mills	71⅛	71¼
Gen Motors	70⅛	70⅛
Gen Reinsurance	212¼	212⅛
Gen Signal	40⅛	40⅛
Genuine Parts	36⅛	37¼
Georgia Pac	61⅛	62¼
Gillette	109⅛	109⅛
Glaxo Wellc ADR	55¼	55¼
Goodrich (BF)	49⅛	49¼
Goodyear Tire	69	68¼
Great Lakes	48¼	48⅛
Halliburton	48¼	47¼
Harcourt General	55⅛	54⅛
Heinz (HJ)	57¼	57¼
Hercules	48⅛	48⅛
Hershey Foods	65⅛	66¼
Hewlett-Packard	64¼	65¼
Hilton Hotels	31⅛	31¼
Home Depot	64¼	64¼
Homestake Mng	9⅛	10
Honeywell	77¼	77⅛
Household Intl	129⅛	130¼
Houston Inds	25¼	25⅛
Humana	25⅛	25⅛
Ikon Office	30¼	33¼
Illinois Tool	61¼	60¼
Illinova	27¼	27¼
INCO	17¼	17¼
Ingersoll-Rand	47¼	47
Inland Steel	21¼	21¼
Intel Corp	85⅛	87¼
IBM	103¼	101⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	47¼	46¼
Intl Paper	47¼	48¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	74⅛	74¼
Kellogg	43¼	42¼
Kerr-McGee	69	68⅛
Kimberly-Clark	56⅛	56⅛
Kmart	13¼	13¼
Knight-Ridder	56¼	56¼
Lilly (Eli)	64⅛	65
Limited Inc	29¼	29¼
Lincoln Nat	83⅛	83¼
Litton	62¼	61⅛
Liz Claiborne	49¼	49¼
Lockheed Martin	114¼	115¼
Louisiana Pac	22¼	22⅛
MCI Comm	48¼	48¼
Manpower Inc	42⅛	42⅛
Marriott Int	75	75¼
Marsh & McLnn	89⅛	89¼
Masco Corp	54⅛	54⅛
May Dept St	61⅛	61
Maytag Corp	44⅛	45
McDonalds	52⅛	53⅛
McGraw Hill	76¼	76¼
Mead Corp	34⅛	34⅛
Medtronic	52	52¼
Mellon Bk	61⅛	63
Merck Inc	128	127
Mercury Fin	0⅛	0¼
Merrill Lynch	72⅛	71¼
Microsoft	83⅛	83⅛
Minnesota Mine	89⅛	89
Mirage Resorts	29⅛	29⅛
Mobil Corp	72	71¼
Monsanto	51	51¼
Morgan (JP)	122⅛	127⅛
Motorola Inc	58	58⅛
Mylan Labs	20⅛	21¼
Natl Semi	33⅛	33⅛
Natl Service Ind	55¼	55⅛
Navistar Int	34⅛	34¼
NY Times A	64⅛	65⅛
Newmont Mng	28	28⅛
NIKE B	43⅛	43⅛
NL Industries	15¼	15⅛
Nordstrom	60¼	60¼
Norfolk Sthrn	34¼	34⅛
Nthn State Pwr	55⅛	55¼
Norwest Corp	40⅛	41¼
Occidental Pet	25⅛	25¼
Office Depot	28⅛	28⅛
Oracle	24⅛	24¼
Oryx Energy Co	25¼	25⅛
Owens Corning	31¼	31⅛
PPG Industries	64⅛	64⅛
PMI Group	72⅛	73
PNC Bank	55¼	55⅛
PPal. Res	22⅛	22⅛
Paccar Inc	65⅛	64⅛
Pacificorp	25⅛	25¼
Pac Enterprises	38⅛	38¼
PaineWebber	39⅛	38¼
Pall Corp	20¼	20¼
Parker Hannifin	46⅛	46⅛
Peco Energy	20¼	20⅛
Penney (JC)	71⅛	72
Pennzoil	66⅛	66¼
Pepsico	37⅛	36⅛
Pfizer	86¼	87⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	39⅛	39⅛
Phelps Dodge	66	65¼
Philip Morris	43⅛	43⅛
Phillips Pet	49¼	49¼
Pitney Bowes	46¼	46⅛
Polaroid	45⅛	45¼
Procter & Gmbl	82	82⅛
Providian	55⅛	56⅛
Pub Serv E & G	32⅛	32⅛
Quaker Oats	55¼	55
Ralston Purina	100¼	101⅛
Raychem Corp	44¼	43⅛
Raytheon B	58¼	58⅛
Reebok Intl	32	31¼
Reliastar Fin	47¼	47¼
Reynolds Metals	62¼	61⅛
Rockwell Intl	57¼	59
Rohm & Haas	103¼	103⅛
Royal Dutch	55¼	54⅛
Rubbermaid	28¼	28
SBC Comms	76	76⅛
Safeco Corp	51¼	52⅛
St Paul's Cos	88⅛	88⅛
Sara Lee Corp	57	59¼
Schering Plough	74⅛	74⅛
Schlumberger	77⅛	77⅛
Seagram	38⅛	38⅛
Sears Roebuck	54¼	54⅛
Shell Trans	43¼	43⅛
Sherwin Wlms	33¼	33⅛
Silicon Graphics	14⅛	15
Snap-On-Tools	42¼	42⅛
Southern Co	24⅛	24⅛
Southtrust	42¼	42⅛
Sprint Corp	66⅛	66¼
Stanley Works	49⅛	49¼
Starwood H & R	56¼	56⅛
Sun Company	40¼	40⅛
Sun Microsys	49⅛	45¼
Suntrust	73⅛	74¼
Supervalu	47¼	47¼
Synovus Fin	35	35¼
Sysco Corp	48⅛	48¼
TRW Inc	54⅛	54⅛
TJX Hldgs	26⅛	26⅛
Tandy Corp	44⅛	44¼
Temple Inland	59⅛	59⅛
Tenet Healthcare	36⅛	36⅛
Tenneco	41⅛	41¼
Texaco	55⅛	55¼
Texas Inst	53¼	55⅛
Texas Utilities	40¼	40⅛
Textron	74⅛	74¼
Thermo Elec	39¼	39⅛
Time Warner	66⅛	66⅛
Times-Mirror A	62⅛	62⅛
Timken	33¼	33
Torchmark	43⅛	43⅛
Toys R Us	29¼	30¼
Transamerica	119¼	117⅛
Travelers	58	58⅛
Tribune	64⅛	66⅛
UST Inc	34⅛	34⅛
US Bancorp	114⅛	115⅛
UAL	89⅛	89⅛
Unicom	71	70⅛
US Inds	27⅛	28¼
US West Comm	51⅛	51⅛
US West Media	32⅛	33⅛
USAirways Group	68⅛	69⅛
USX Marathon	35¼	35⅛
Unicom	32⅛	32⅛
Unilever NV	66⅛	64⅛
Union Camp	58⅛	59⅛
Union Carbide	47⅛	47⅛
Union Pacific	59¼	58⅛
Unisys Corp	17⅛	18
USFG Corp	24⅛	24⅛
United Tech	89¼	90⅛
Unocal Corp	37⅛	37⅛
VF Corp	47⅛	47⅛
Wal-Mart Strs	47	47⅛
Warner-Lambert	153⅛	151⅛
Waste Mngmt	24⅛	24⅛
Wells Fargo	321⅛	321⅛
Weyerhaeuser	51⅛	52¼
Whirlpool	65⅛	65⅛
Whitman	17⅛	17⅛
Winn Dixie	53⅛	56
Witco Corp	39⅛	39⅛
Woolworth	23⅛	23⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	76⅛	75⅛
Xerox	88⅛	88⅛
Xilinx Inc	40¼	41⅛

BUDGET COUNTDOWN: PART ONE

Expect Chancellor to opt for 'neutral'

Members of the Monetary Policy Committee can be forgiven for feeling a hint of *Schadenfreude* when Gordon Brown opens his Budget box in two weeks' time. For the past nine months the committee has wrestled with a policy dilemma, borne of a booming consumer sector and a manufacturing base faltering under the strain of the strong pound. For one day only the problem will be shared by Mr Brown as he reveals whether he intends to tweak fiscal policy to help to rebalance the economy.

In many ways, the Chancellor's dilemma is even more acute, as he will not only have to weigh up the needs of the economy but factor in the requirements of electoral politics. He will also have to try to double-guess the thinking of the MPC as there is little use in introducing macroeconomic reform only to see it undermined by the Bank moving interest rates two weeks later.

On paper, Mr Brown approaches this Budget from an unusual position of strength. The rapid improvement in public finances has lifted any constraints that deficit financing can impose. Latest figures show a record monthly budget surplus of £10.4 billion, giving the Government an overall surplus for the first ten months of the year. End-of-year spending is likely to push government finances into the red, but even the most cautious City economists expect the Government to beat easily its own revised public sector borrowing requirement forecast of £9.4 billion, pencilling in a figure closer to £6.5 billion. Next year, the City expects the Government to achieve a year-end surplus — a year ahead of schedule.

The Chancellor has tried to dampen expectations that the Government is sitting on a huge windfall. He has revived memories of the last time the Government went into surplus. The Lawson tax cuts in the late 1980s forced the economy over the cliff, leading to a disastrous increase in the PSBR as recession took hold. It is not a mistake that Mr Brown wishes to repeat.

However, economists estimate that

FISCAL POLICY

the Chancellor could easily introduce tax cuts or spending increases to the value of £3 billion without threatening the Chancellor's own golden rule on borrowing. This sum would be more than enough to begin rolling out the promised 10p income tax starting rate or would go a long way towards appeasing the spending demands of the Government's own backbenchers.

There is little doubt, however, that Mr Brown will resist pressure to loosen fiscal policy, even by the amount dubbed prudent by City economists, for two other reasons. First, the Government is still committed to tough spending targets for this year and will not radically alter the spending pattern until its comprehensive spending review is completed in the summer.

Secondly, the Bank of England is likely to view tax cuts as adding fuel to the still robust consumer sector and raise interest rates accordingly. It would appear completely out of character for Mr Brown to take this risk, especially given that the Treasury hinted in the pre-Budget report in November that it believed that interest rates still needed to rise to control inflation. It will be interesting to see, when the Treasury publishes its new inflation forecast with the Budget, whether it now believes that the Bank is on track to meet the target figure.

In this line of thinking, Mr Brown has the unanimous support of the City. Some economists are prepared to go further and argue that the Chancellor should even consider raising consumer taxes to help to take the pressure off interest rates and ease the strong pound.

However, a tax rise looks about as politically difficult as a tax cut is economically foolhardy. A Labour Chancellor clearly increasing taxes, even with the best of economic reasons, would play straight into opposition hands, casting his party not so much as "tax and spend" as "tax and not spend". It would also compromise the new monetary policy framework, so carefully constructed by Mr Brown, by indicating that he does not regard the MPC as up to the job of controlling inflation.

The Chancellor appears to have little choice but to opt for a neutral Budget, concentrating on the microeconomic reforms, such as restructuring the tax system, that are his real political interest. His economic reform programme has already substantially changed the rules of the game. By handing control of interest rates to the Bank of England and making it clear that the Treasury does not really believe in using fiscal policy to control the economy, the Chancellor has severely limited his macroeconomic options. In the future, the macro debate at Budget time is likely to be limited to trying to judge the long-term impact of supply side reforms, such as tax redistribution, on the economy as a whole.

ALASDAIR MURRAY
Economics Correspondent

Green-fingered approach to cultivating jobs

Labour is committed to putting the environment at the heart of Government. Regulation is essential to environmental change. Economic intervention, particularly tax changes, are also required. However welcome the work of John Prescott and Michael Meacher, there must also be action by the Treasury.

The Treasury's Statement of Intent says that green taxes can "encourage innovation in meeting higher environmental standards; and deliver a more dynamic economy and a cleaner environment to the benefit of everyone". Yet the Budget last year failed to include serious green policies. The patience even of Labour-supporting environmentalists is almost exhausted.

The current tax system sends wrong signals to both producers and consumers. Taxes are high on things we approve of, such as jobs, and low on things we should discourage, including waste and pollution. Green taxes are demonstrably good both for the economy and the environment. Friends of the Earth ran a Budget package through the Cambridge Econometrics' MDM-E3 economic model, used by the Treasury and uniquely based on the integration of economic, environmental and energy factors.

We suggested:

- ☐ an increase to 9 per cent in the road fuel duty escalator (the amount by which petrol tax rises every year), raising £14 billion by 2010.
- ☐ a carbon tax, raising £6 billion by the year 2010.
- ☐ a landfill tax — £3 billion.
- ☐ an aggregates tax — £2.4 billion.
- ☐ removal of tax perks and a tax on company car parking, raising £2.3 billion.

The total income of £28 billion from this very simple "polluter pays" package could be used to promote social justice and employment. For the purposes of testing against the economic model, we assumed that all the money was used to cut employers' national insurance by 3 per cent.

The results were startling. An extra 391,000 jobs were created by 2010, reducing unemployment by 166,000. All but eight sectors gained jobs and three fifths cut costs. GDP rose 0.2 per cent. By 2010, carbon dioxide emissions fell 7 per cent, a big step towards Labour's 20 per cent target. The environmental, economic and social impacts of our proposals were almost universally beneficial — a ground-breaking Budget.

Green tax revenues could be targeted to produce even greater job and wealth creation effects. Money from fuel tax could by hypothecated for investment in public transport. We know from Germany that this will create twice as many jobs per pound as spending on new roads.

Yet there remains resistance, both from producers and from politicians, fearful of how voters will react. The road lobby case should be dismissed as special pleading. But the concerns of politicians and their constituents do need to be addressed.

Too many Labour backbenchers argue that green taxation is socially regressive, that higher domestic fuel prices would hit poor households hardest. But Labour could use part of its green tax income on improving social benefits or carrying out its promise for a national Home Energy Efficiency Scheme, creating 30,000 to 50,000 jobs and targeting households in fuel poverty. In Opposition, Michael Meacher wrote a paper designed to achieve this. He was blocked by Gordon Brown. Perhaps in Government, Mr Brown will show more imagination.

The rural poor need not be hit hardest if Labour delivers another election promise. Currently, a gas-guzzling Ferrari is taxed at the same level as the Suzuki Swift, the most fuel efficient car on the road. If Vehicle Excise Duty is varied by size of engine and fuel efficiency, people who need cars because they live in the countryside need not be penalised. Labour must also target promised improvements in public transport, particularly regulation of the bus industry, at rural areas.

Sleekly suited corporate lobbyists, often former Shadow Cabinet advisers, are circling Treasury ministers. "Worthy, but unrealistic," they whisper. "Utopian," they mutter, and — supposedly a clincher with new Labour — "too brave by half".

They are sleazy, self-interested and wrong. Green taxes are economically and socially beneficial and could be major vote winners. The Chancellor's motto must be: green and fair. Environmentalists will wait no longer. Warm words on global warming are no longer enough.

CHARLES SECRETT
Executive Director, Friends of the Earth

ENVIRONMENT

Brown to seize main chance to make back-to-work ethic pay

Janet Bush on the thinking behind Labour's drive to reform tax and benefits



Gordon Brown highlighted training and work when last July he used a new Budget box made by apprentices

New Labour, new Budget. In the action-packed months since the election, Gordon Brown has pioneered radical change, not just to the Budget process, but to virtually every aspect of the way the Chancellor goes about managing the economy. Mr Brown's speech on March 17 is going to be a very different animal from those unleashed on the Commons in the past.

Budgets have traditionally been the jealously guarded preserve of the Treasury, shrouded in obsessive secrecy so as to heighten the drama of Budget day. The Budget was always one of the most theatrical events of the parliamentary calendar, the Chancellor of the day's chance to show off his panache and political acumen.

The man voted Parliamentarian of the Year last autumn is not too serious-minded to pass up the opportunity to make a splash. Nor are he and his colleagues beyond some cynical news management, if this week's prescription charges news is anything to go by. There will be, as Andrew Dilnot, of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) put it after November's pre-Budget report, some brightly coloured lollipops to delight tabloid headline writers. There will be high-minded rhetoric about opportunity for all and an end to the hopelessness of long-term unemployment.

Nevertheless, Mr Brown has done much to junk the sillier aspects of the Budget-making process of the past. He has refreshingly shattered the illusion that the Budget is the result of a feverish few weeks of number-crunching by Treasury officials once a year. The contents of the first full Brown Budget will be the distillation of work done not just by civil servants, but also by the numerous Government task forces that have been busy examining virtually every aspect of economic reform for months. It has become a much more public process.

Consultation and transparency, most obviously embodied in the innovation of the pre-Budget report, not to mention the Labour spin doctors' practice of market-testing ideas through leaks, winks and nudges, have made a nonsense of the ritual of pre-Budget purdah. The scope for producing the traditional rabbit out of the hat is limited.

That is not to say that this Budget is going to be dull — anything but. This is not going to be a Budget centred on a broad macroeconomic judgment, the need to raise or lower taxes as a tool of economic management. Mr Brown has already set out his stall on the macroeconomy, leaving the setting of interest rates to the Bank of England and committing himself to Conservative plans for public spending and the "golden rule" on public borrowing.

The greatest innovation of this Budget is that it will concentrate on the microeconomy that is Mr Brown's intellectual passion. Expected to be long and astonishingly detailed, this Budget will contain a plethora of interlinking changes to savings and investment, the tax and benefit system and the labour market. Every layer of economic activity will be touched if Mr Brown fulfils his promise for change.

THE BIG IDEA

After all the painstaking work by the Treasury and the Government's army of task forces, anything less than the most dramatically reforming Budget for decades will be a disappointment.

The *zeitgeist* of this Budget can be summed up in a single word: work. What moves this Chancellor is giving people the opportunity, the skills and the incentives to make a living, enjoy the confidence and satisfaction that comes from being financially self-reliant and, at the same time, enrich the economy.

Virtually every one of the key Budget changes that have been trailed by spin doctors is part of a complex jigsaw designed to create the right incentives to bring the unemployed or the economically inactive back into the world of work. While successive Conservative administrations tackled incentives at the top end of the labour market, most notably by abolishing punitive higher rates of income tax, this Government is committed to tackling disincentives at the bottom end.

Plans for a 10p starting rate of tax, the working families tax credit, subsidies for child care, reforming the national insurance system so that it no longer places such a burden on the low paid and, arguably, the minimum wage, are all pieces of the jigsaw.

The success of Mr Brown's Budget will be judged — and it may take days properly to analyse what is likely to be an unusually impenetrable list of reforms — on whether changes to individual taxes or benefits work as a coherent whole and whether the Chancellor has been bold enough to create genuine incentives to rejoin the labour market. On the question of scale, it will be fascinating to see to what extent Mr Brown is prepared to use redistribution from higher earners to help the unemployed and low paid.

There is a reason why successive Governments have baulked at reforming the current tax and benefit system, however long overdue. It is incredibly complicated to redesign the system to ensure that there are more winners than losers. For example, the Government wants to reduce the rate at which benefits are taken away once people work in order to improve the arithmetic in favour of employment. But this invariably means higher marginal tax rates for many others.

In the case of the working families tax credit (WFTC), which the Chancellor has proposed to build on family credit, there are hugely difficult questions. Should the money be paid through the wage packet of the main earner — in the bulk of cases, the man — rather than, as in the case of family credit, to the woman? How can WFTC be integrated with other benefits, such as housing benefit, council tax benefit and disability working allowances? Or should it replace all these support mechanisms? Unless WFTC is integrated closely with income taxes, will it not simply add another layer of bureaucratic complexity to the system?

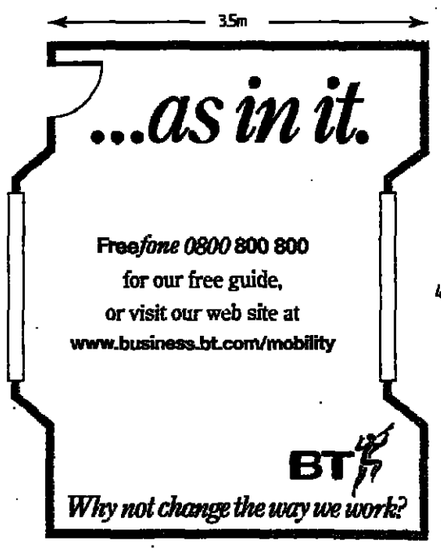
Even the most headline-grabbing proposals are minefields. The 10p starting rate, which the Chancellor is so wedded to, has long been criticised by the IFS, for example, which argues that barely 10 per cent of the gains go to the poorest 40 per cent of households. Reform of the national insurance system, which is disproportionately burdensome on the low paid, is possible, but it would involve redistribution.

Martin Taylor, chairman of the Government's tax and benefit task force, last month said a "big bang" integration of the tax and benefit systems was neither necessary nor desirable. Even if it were, it would be inconceivable that even a Chancellor as hard working as Mr Brown could contemplate such as thing so soon after coming to power. But grafting change on to an already complex system is fraught.

Mr Brown needs a big success on Budget day. Given the difficulties of what he has set out to do, it may be that only serious redistribution is going to bring the radicalism he desires. Perhaps the real surprise of this Budget will be that the Iron Chancellor finally reveals himself as a socialist.

Next week: What the Budget could mean to you

How to work as efficiently out of the office...



Docks away

WHEN the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) finally implodes this month, it leaves behind a little problem: £1.5 million-a-year's worth of problem, because the agency is frantically trying to find a new tenant for its Thames Quay headquarters on the Isle of Dogs. It seems when the LDDC was looking for property, in 1989, the market was on a bit of a high, and someone took it upon themselves to take a 25-year lease, with a break clause after 19 years — for £20 per sq ft, or rather more than the place is worth today, and despite the fact that the LDDC could expect to be wound up many years before 2014. By 1991, when the LDDC was ready to move in, the property market had moved south a long way, but a deal is a deal, and it's only public money anyway.

The LDDC disappears at the end of this month, although the odd accountant will be at Thames Quay until June ruling off the books. You and I might be worried, with that much unwanted office space sitting costing us rent. But the public sector does things differently. The block will go into the huge mass of publicly owned property, to be farmed out to some lucky government department, if needed. Oh, well. We all make mistakes in property. Such as building offices without putting in the necessary transport links first, so no one could get to them. Like they did in the London Docklands.



LDDC will vacate its London Docklands HQ this month

☐ *DAWSON International, the knitwear group publishing figures today, decided that, rather than use the usual grey men in suits in photographs, they would go for someone more fashionable, more high profile. So who was looking daft in New Bond Street yesterday in a chilly cashmere number? That over-exposed nit-wit non-celebrity, the silly-billy Almost Person, the cerebrally-challenged, sub-literate It Girl herself, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson.*



Bear squeeze

JUST what is going on at PDFM, or UBS Asset Management, both of which names are in alternate use by the switchboard, I notice? The City is rife with rumours of trouble for Tony Dye and Paul Meredith, leading lights of a fund manager that has achieved unwanted notoriety for its bearish views on the stock market. One says they are about to depart, after a clash with SBC, their new owners after the "merger" with UBS. Except they are still there.

The latest rumour concerns a flight Dye and Meredith are supposed to have made to New York three weeks ago to discuss with Gary Brinson, who runs the merged asset management business, a management buyout of PDFM. Or bits of it, depending on who you listen to on the cocktail party circuit. Management buyouts of investment management firms are horribly expensive. Except that the venture capital world is awash with cash. The smoke signals from PDFM suggest the MBO rumour is a long way from the truth. But the rumours suggest something must happen there before long.

☐ *A GROUP of steam enthusiasts is rebuilding a railway on a Staffordshire moorland. The fund-raising is offered as an investment opportunity, with a prospectus, share issue and travel concessions. They have, perhaps, still a bit to learn about the language of finance because the scheme is named after the picturesque valley the railway runs along — the Churnet.*

Screen save

A LIGHTHEARTED computer game based on the Budget sounds like a contradiction in terms, especially when you can waste time and electricity cutting people's heads off or frying aliens instead. But those merry japesters Ernst & Young have come up with a game of snakes and ladders on the firm's web-site based on pundits' predictions. Commuter unrest forces you to buy back Railtrack — back three spaces. PM calls a snap election — back to start. Let councils raise taxes, then slice government funds to them — a nice cynical ring, so forward ten. The accountants expect most players to be job-seeking students, which figures. Except they will all be too young to remember the last time a Chancellor got into trouble over a snake.

MARTIN WALLER



"The 7:11 is delayed due to champagne on the track"

Stronger sterling fails to hinder Inspec

BY MARTIN BARROW

INSPEC GROUP, the speciality and fine chemicals company, lifted pre-tax profits 47 per cent to £47.1 million in 1997, *despite taking a £10* million hit from the strength of sterling.

Inspec shares, which peaked at 366½p in 1996, recovered *22½p to 230p* yesterday in response to the results, which were at the top end of expectations, and to a confident trading statement.

Dr John Hollowood, chairman, said demand for most of the company's chemicals products is firm and growth is anticipated from the capital investments made last year.

The continued strength of sterling remains the largest threat to the company's UK businesses, but this would be offset by opportunities for activities based in continental Europe because of their more competitive currencies.

Dr Hollowood also said the impact of the Far East crisis is expected to be limited, except for glycol, where prices have suffered due to lower demand and the anticipated effect of additional new capacity due on stream this year.

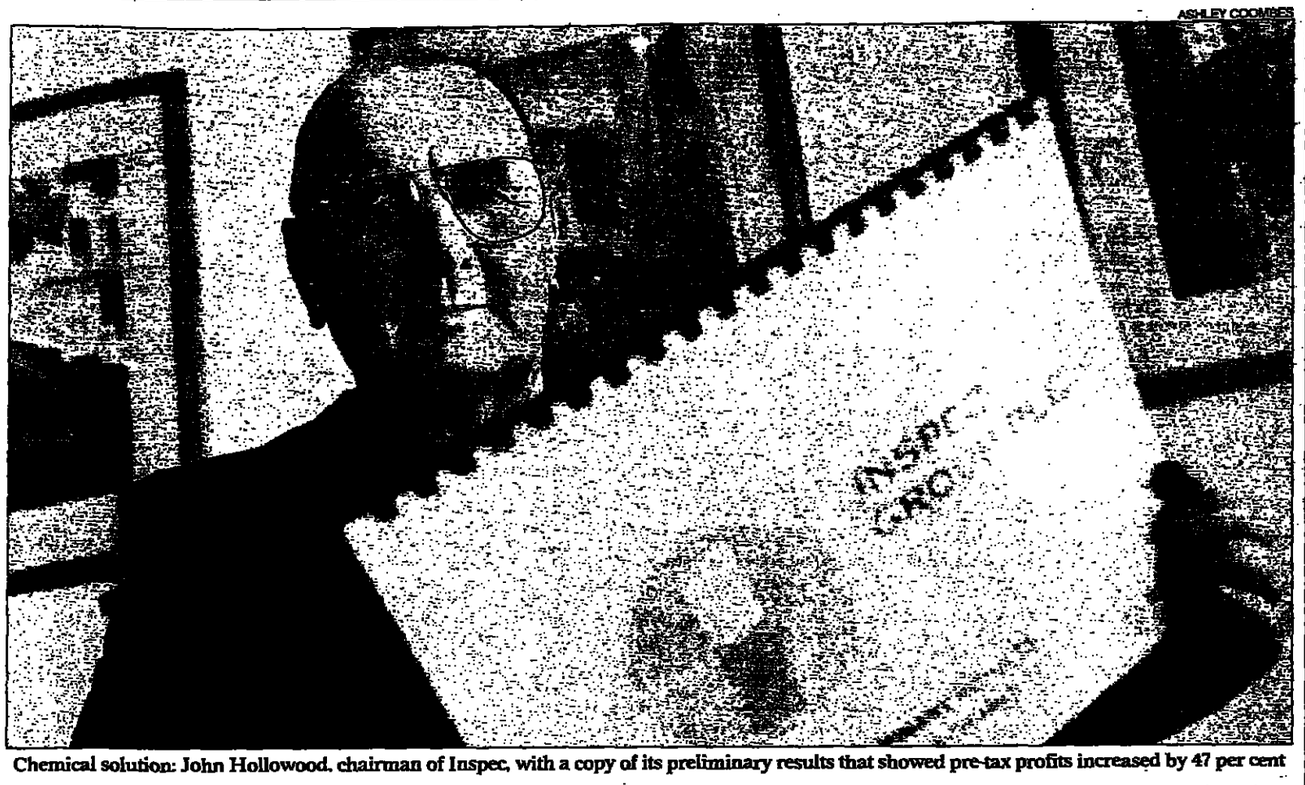
In 1997, the company's main focus was the integration of Shell Fine Chemicals, which was acquired for £200 million in 1996. The company has also made inroads into reducing the debt associated with the acquisition, with gearing falling to 138 per cent of net assets from 228 per cent.

Fine chemicals contributed £24.3 million to operating profits in its first full year, up from £11.5 million for just six months in 1996. Profits in specialities slipped to £21 million from £22.09 million, with volume increases helping to offset the impact of the strong pound in the UK.

Losses in performance products, comprising fibres, mining and foams, increased to £2.9 million from £1.2 million reflecting product development costs and entry into new markets.

Earnings rose to 22.2p a share from 18.24p. There is a final dividend of 4.5p a share, lifting the total to 6.75p from 6.3p in the previous year.

ASHLEY COOMBES



Chemical solution: John Hollowood, chairman of Inspec, with a copy of its preliminary results that showed pre-tax profits increased by 47 per cent

Review prompts Thistle to put 30 hotels up for sale

BY KATHY LIPARI

THISTLE HOTELS, one of Britain's largest hotel groups, is to sell 30 of its properties worth about £100 million, the company announced yesterday as it unveiled a 34 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for 1997.

However, Thistle which is 46 per cent owned by New Zealand's Brierley Investments, failed to deliver long-awaited news regarding the appointment of a new chief executive. Robert Peel, the former chief executive, resigned in November, receiving a £700,000 termination payment, and analysts had hoped that the group would use the release of its annual results as an opportunity to make an announcement.

Rodney Price, the chairman, could only tell investors a shortlist of candidates for the role had been compiled and an appointment of an outside UK executive would be made within weeks.

The City appeared to be frustrated with the continuing wait and marked the shares down 9p to 181½p.

Thistle recorded a pre-tax profit of £80.6 million in the year to December 28, which was in line with expectations after the trading statement in January and a sharp rebound from the £60.1 million achieved in 1996, when the group wrote off £88 million.

Mr Price said Thistle had benefited from "buoyant market conditions" in 1997 that were likely to continue this year: "There are no signs at the moment that this is likely to deteriorate at all, so it's so far so good."

The chairman said that he expected further profit growth in the current year. However, after a review of the hotels, a decision had been made to sell 30 of its non-core provincial properties during the next year, which would leave Thistle with a portfolio of about 60 predominantly 4-star hotels.

The properties for sale had been making profits, but were contributing less than 10 per cent of hotel gross profits in 1997, Mr Price said.

Thistle intended to outlay a further £50 million redeveloping and upgrading its existing hotels in 1998, after spending £49.6 million last year.

During 1997, Thistle's turnover increased 10 per cent to £319.7 million. Earnings rose 20.8 per cent to 12.36p a share and operating profits, taking into account 1996's large writedowns, were 8.8 per cent stronger at £112.5 million.

Investors are to receive a final dividend of 2.8p up from 2p, making a total of 4.2p.

Average room rates rose 10.5 per cent to £60.82, while occupancy levels increased from 66.7 to 68.6 per cent and room yields were 13.7 per cent higher at £41.72 per room.

Partco seeks further growth

BY OUR CITY STAFF

PARTCO, the vehicle component specialist, is on the lookout for more deals in the rapidly consolidating market after boosting profits by acquisition last year.

The company doubled pre-tax profits, from £10.5 million to £21.3 million, in the year to December 31 on sales up 89 per cent to £386 million. The group spent £2.35 million on reorganising Dana Distribution Europe, which owns Brown Brothers, during the year. The business contributed £9.2 million of operating profit.

Earnings per share rose from 19.3p to 21.1p out of which the full-year dividend rises 8.8 per cent to 8.7p after payment of a 6.1p final. The shares rose 4p to 329½p.

Gordon Yardley, chairman, said: "The acquisitions made during 1997 have yet to realise their full potential within the group and, as the market continues to consolidate rapidly, we see further scope for the acquisition of businesses which fit well with our existing operations."

Philip Wragg, the chief executive said the group hoped to reduce gearing from the 94 per cent level at the end of 1997 to 50 per cent by the end of 1998. A year ago gearing stood at a pro forma 170 per cent. Mr Wragg added that Dana's small Portuguese operation, Europecas, is in line for divestment.

Trafficmaster moves into the black

BY OUR CITY STAFF

TRAFFICMASTER, the traffic information network, made its first profit to date during 1997 and yesterday revealed plans to launch a new navigation service during June.

Shares in the company, which was floated on the stock market four years ago, rose 18½p to 387p after it revealed a pre-tax profit of £241,000 in the year to December 31 against a loss of £3.4 million for 1996. Earnings reversed from losses of 14.02p a share to 0.84p a share. There is no dividend.

Trafficmaster sold 250,000 of its information units in 1997, up from 56,000 in 1996. Sales rose 151 per cent to £8.64 million.

On prospects Sir James McKinnon, chairman, and the board say that profits will benefit from the full-year effect of Vauxhall and Cellnet contracts signed during 1997 and will be further boosted by new services and contracts during 1998.

The Trafficmaster Oracle service is now fitted as standard on Vauxhall Vectra and Omega models.

The company was able to end the year with cash of £13 million.

Computer Sciences looks for white knight

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

COMPUTER Sciences Corporation is seeking a white knight to fend off a $9 billion (£5 billion) hostile takeover bid from Computer Associates. CSC has so far insisted that losing its independence could mean losing up to 25 per cent of its customers.

Potential white knights include Andersen Consulting, AT&T, IBM and Hewlett Packard. The key issue will be whether the agreed bidder sells software or hardware products.

CSC's main business is IT consultancy and being owned by a product maker would undermine the independence of CSC consultants who routinely advise clients on choosing software and hardware.

CSC has 5,000 British employees who will be strongly affected by the outcome of the takeover battle. Managers fear that many highly skilled engineers and programmers could leave CSC if Computer Associates, a leading software company, gained control of the business.

A British spokesman said: "It all depends on the white knight. I am not aware of any particular white knight scenario because I'm not in the inner loop. But the white knight's independence is one factor along with cultural fit and shareholder value."

He said UK staff had been concerned about the Computer Associates bid but managers had not yet received any feedback from them regarding white knights.

CSC's biggest contract is with British Aerospace.

BUSINESS

Confident Porsche drives shares to high

SHARES in Porsche rose more than 3 per cent after the German luxury carmaker predicted higher sales and profits. Porsche also said that it would decide soon whether to build a sport utility vehicle. Porsche said results for the first half were better than reported at the annual meeting on January 23 and predicted a rise in sales and earnings in the financial year to July 31. The news lifted Porsche preference shares to a high of DM3,450 (£1,155) up DM110 or 3.3 per cent.

Porsche said sales were up 10.2 per cent at DM1.96 billion (£655. million) for the first half of its financial year and predicted that group sales in its 1997-98 financial year would total more than DM4.5 billion. Net profit for the first half was DM69.7 million, compared with DM38.4 million.

Tarmac in £90m rail deal

TARMAC, the construction and quarries group, has won a Railtrack contract worth up to £90 million. The contract, for work in East Anglia, was won by Centrac, part of Tarmac Construction Services, and is worth £18 million a year for the next three years. An option to extend for two more years would raise the total to £90 million. From May Centrac will renew more than 50 miles of railway track per year in the area covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and parts of North London.

Epwin advances

EPWIN GROUP, the specialist building products company, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.06 million from £5.23 million in 1997. Earnings rose to 18.2p a share from 15.5p. The total dividend is lifted to 9.85p a share from 9p, with a final 6.7p. The shares rose 16p to 163p yesterday. Jim Rawson, the chairman, said the strong performance was achieved against a backdrop of overcapacity in the extrusion market, highly competitive pricing and continued pressure on margins.

HK contract for Atkins

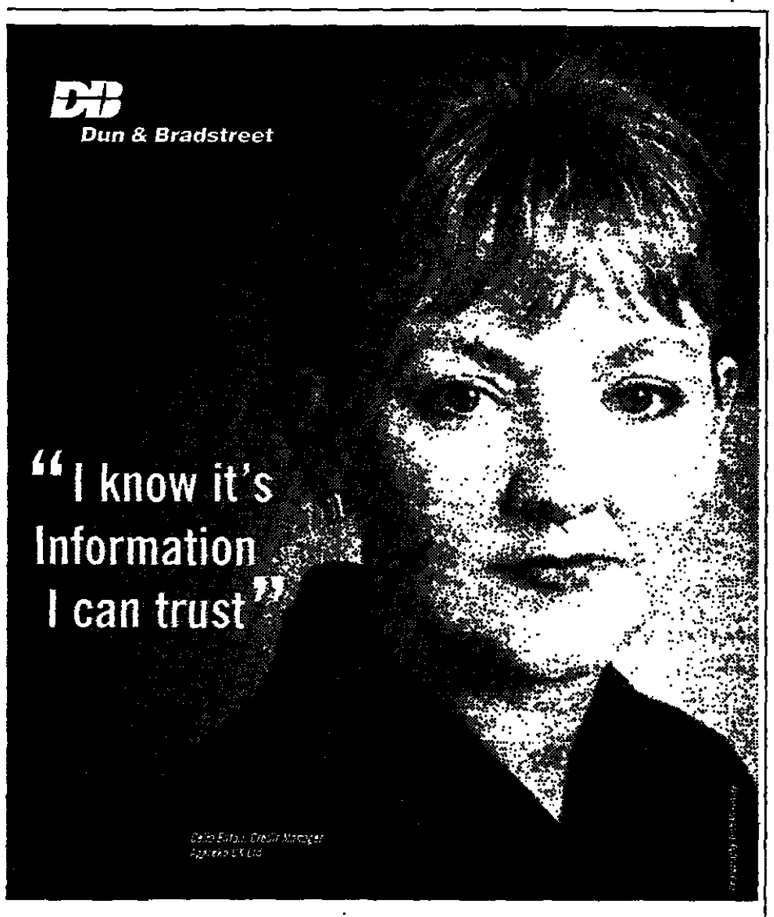
WS ATKINS, the engineering consultancy and support services group, has won a £17.6 million contract to build part of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corp's new West Rail development. Atkins has secured the part of the package containing Tsuen Wan West underground station in Hong Kong's New Territories. The station is the largest on the project and requires land to be reclaimed from the sea. It will also have to relocate infrastructural facilities, including a ferry pier.

Quinn creates 330 jobs

ALMOST 330 jobs are to be created at a new glass factory in Northern Ireland. The £60 million plant at Derrylin in Co Fermanagh is being set up by the Sean Quinn Group. It is scheduled to begin production next June with the jobs being created over the next five years. Gerry Loughran, of Northern Ireland's Department of Economic Development, said: "This introduces an important new industry and the latest technology to a rural area far from the traditional manufacturing centres."

Compass stops at Philips

COMPASS GROUP has won a contract to provide catering services for Philips, the electronics group, worldwide. The agreement, to be implemented throughout this year, will at first cover 110,000 Philips staff in The Netherlands, France, Germany, Britain, Spain, Belgium and the US. It will initially include 118 self-service restaurants as well as Compass brands such as Upper Crust and Caffe Ritazza. The Philips deal will become the biggest food-service deal for Compass.



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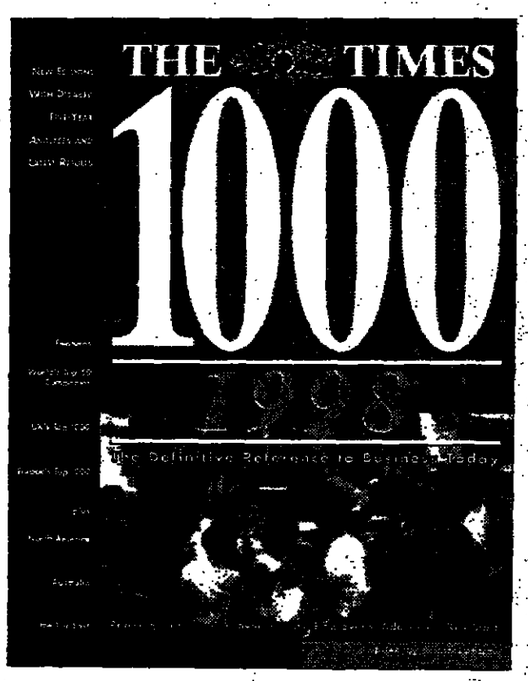
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Equities run out of steam

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

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MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
672	368½	BT	616	- 8	3.9	17.8
1350	270	COLT Telecom	1277½	- 10		
702½	450	Cable Wireless	670	+ 5	2.0	28.2
362½	206½	Cable&Wire Comms	361½	+ 4		
521½	251½	Energis	486	+ 1		
315	167½	Euro Telecom	284		1.2	25.9
200	77½	General Cable	137	+ 5		
365	184½	Orange	347	+ ½		
377	248½	Securicor†	365	- ½	0.6	47.4
134½	67½	TeleWest	77½			
560	240	Vodafone	552	+ 6	1.2	45.4

TRANSPORT

WATER

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
930	577½	Anglian	840	+ 11½	5.3	11.5
335	203	East Surrey	330½	- 1	4.4	13.0
1053½	740	Hyder†	953½	+ 13½	6.0	8.0
140½	101½	Hyder Grn Prf	119½	- ½	8.3	...
770	532½	Mid Kent Hldgs	770	...	5.1	11.5
1095	663	Severn Trent§	916	- 1	5.1	10.1
3390	2755	South Staffs	3390	...	3.5	14.0
1005	596½	South West†	890	- 10	5.4	11.2
970	593½	Thames	888	+ 3	5.0	9.9
890	605½	Utd Utilities	807½	- 8	5.9	13.1
550	344½	Wessex†	481½	...	4.9	9.3
545	325	Yorkshire	507	- 3	4.8	9.9

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
370	84½	Abacus Recruit	300	- 5	0.6	28.6
217	170	Cale Inns▼	195	...	1.9	14.8
262½	155	Dawson Hldgs†	178½	+ 8½	3.4	15.8
51½	26½	[illegible]	32	- ½		
98½	53½	Megalomedia	53½	- 2	8.5	25.4
65	22½	Memory Corp	36	+ ½		
580	280	Prism Rail	350	...	3.3	
1265	695	Ramco Eqy	735	- 5	0.2	
795	619½	Southern News	795	+ 32½	3.3	18.5
94½	65½	Southern Vectis	92½	...	2.8	14.3
69½	14½	[illegible]	18½	+ ¼		

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension, † Ex dividend, ‡ Ex scrip, ▲ Ex rights issue, ▼ Ex all, § Ex capital distribution, * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	141.50	150.79	+ 0.09	
Do NAV to Mar 20	134.56	134.56		
UK Eqdty Safeguard	112.52	120.33	- 0.09	2.47
Do NAV to Mar 20	105.86	105.86		
Cash	954.64	959.41		5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	412.60	439.00	+ 1.50	1.85
UK Small Cos	89.36	95.58	+ 0.32	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	108.08	115.59	+ 1.14	2.11
Geared UK Index	2750.49	2903.60	+31.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	83.75	86.82	+ 0.16	...
Monthly Inc	44.54	47.58†	+ 0.30	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	318.10	337.70	+ 0.20	...
American Strat	242.73	259.60	+ 2.10	
JG US Index	2502.03	2638.24		4.00
European Gen	372.30	394.60	- 0.10	0.68
European Strat	157.84	168.80	+ 0.53	
Japan Gen	105.00	111.00	- 1.00	
Asia Pacific	66.53	70.97	+ 0.11	1.08
Pacific Strat	108.00	115.49†	- 0.27	..
Greater China	208.20	222.67	+ 0.47	..
Latin America	103.92	111.13†	+ 2.73	
Intl Growth	177.00	189.25	+ 0.82	..
Balanced Exempt	174.40	181.40		2.29
Global Strategy	47.48	50.75	+ 0.42	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	941.90	1002.00	+ 3.50	2.27
General Inc	767.60	816.50	+ 2.70	2.27
UK Growth Acc	648.30	689.60	+ 1.80	2.25
UK Growth Inc	409.70	435.80	+ 0.90	2.25
Higher Inc Acc #	1205.00	1281.00	+ 1.00	4.26
Higher Inc Inc #	618.20	657.60	- 0.60	4.26
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	236.80	250.00	- 0.10	5.65
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	98.21	101.60		5.65
Nth America	458.40	487.60	- 0.50	
Europe	521.60	554.80	+ 0.20	0.51
Brit Expt	129.20	137.40	+ 0.40	2.11
Brit Fndmtl Acc	159.80	170.00	+ 0.20	4.09
Brit Fndmtls Inc	102.50	109.00	+ 0.20	4.09
Global Opps	124.30	132.20		0.23
Balanced Acc	79.75	84.84	+ 0.10	2.17
Balanced Inc	72.97	77.62	+ 0.10	2.17
Japan Acc	35.50	37.76	- 0.13	...
Pac Basin Acc	304.00	323.40		2.07
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	144.50	153.90†	+ 0.40	5.83
High Inc Equity	240.80	257.50†	+ 1.20	3.91
Worldwide Bond	271.60	288.00†	+ 0.40	3.49
American Growth	562.90	601.10†	+ 3.40	0.21
Asian Pacific	234.40	250.70	+ 1.20	0.49
Assets & Earnings	387.50	414.40	+ 1.00	2.46
Euro Capital Acc	273.80	292.80	+ 2.10	0.65
Extra Inc	43.64	46.43	+ 0.20	8.96
General	352.60	375.10†	+ 1.20	2.62
Global Opps	82.40	87.66	+ 0.40	0.37
Japan	81.60	87.37	- 0.13	
Managed Inc	55.10	58.62†	+ 0.22	4.35
Mastertrust	201.80	215.00	+ 1.00	1.03
US Emerging Cos	236.00	252.40	+ 3.40	
Ethical	100.40	106.60	+ 0.10	1.71
International	151.70	161.40	+ 1.00	0.58
Dividend & Growth	88.49	94.14†	+ 0.45	3.64
Global Gwth & Sec	79.37	84.89	+ 0.10	2.38
Latin America	77.08	82.00	+ 1.81	0.82
Capital Reserve	154.70	154.80	+ 0.10	4.52
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	126.50	134.50	+ 0.10	1.57
Equity Income #	174.30	185.40†	- 0.01	3.47
Extra Income #	323.30	343.20†		4.44
Smaller Cos	106.90	113.70	+ 0.40	1.76
International	142.70	151.80	- 0.20	0.87
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq: 0345 806 866 Dlg: 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	400.78	422.34	+ 0.66	
Emrg Mkts Inc	61.37	64.94	+ 0.42	
Ethical Inc	93.43	98.86	+ 0.20	0.63
Euro Grth Acc	131.33	138.60	- 0.46	0.18
Euro Spec Opps Acc	137.52	145.30	- 0.86	
Extra Inc Inc	243.50	256.65	+ 0.56	3.75
Extra Inc Acc	333.08	351.36	+ 0.77	3.75
FE Emg Econ	83.99	88.88	- 0.30	0.67
Fixed Int Inc #	29.03	30.47†	+ 0.12	7.79
Frontier Mk Inc	76.59	81.04†	- 0.03	
Fund Of Inv Inc #	211.80	224.11	+ 0.53	9.23
Fund Of Inv Acc	448.69	474.79	+ 1.14	9.23
Gilt Inc Inc #	50.51	52.69†	+ 0.05	6.68
Global Bond Inc	41.32	43.14	- 0.14	4.62
Global Inc Inc	32.74	34.50	- 0.05	4.31
Global Inc Acc	50.31	53.02	- 0.07	4.31
High Inc Inc	184.61	195.30	+ 0.55	3.45
High Inc Acc	245.01	259.21	+ 0.74	3.45
Japan Inc	149.66	158.25†	- 0.54	
Latin Amer Inc	67.53	71.45†	+ 1.40	0.69
Master Inc Inc	66.62	70.48	+ 0.36	2.60
Master Grth Inc	61.31	64.87	+ 0.19	0.58
North Amer Inc	278.57	293.17	+ 0.38	
North Amer Acc	278.91	293.52	+ 0.36	
Pacific Inc	80.71	84.24	- 0.01	0.15
Prop Share Inc	100.96	106.83	+ 0.11	1.21
Recovery Inc	114.82	121.50	+ 0.79	1.91
Recovery Acc	130.52	138.12	+ 0.89	1.91
Special Sit Inc	182.94	193.59	+ 0.67	1.44
Special Sit Acc	207.20	219.27	+ 0.76	1.44
Tech Inc	847.11	893.19	- 7.18	
Tech Acc	847.11	893.19	- 7.18	
UK Blue Chip Inc	123.81	130.66†	- 0.09	2.36
UK Blue Chip Acc	149.04	157.29	- 0.10	2.36
UK Emg Co Inc	82.93	86.65		0.63
UK Gwth Inc	77.69	81.78	- 0.10	1.26
World Port Inc #	97.58	103.25	- 0.17	2.08
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2557.00	2667.00		
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 298 5868				
Resdtl Property #	108.70	115.60†		4.90
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	113.59	120.52†	+ 0.08	1.64
Income Builder Inc	104.55	111.22	+ 0.22	2.98
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Critcrd Ord Pens	152.80	157.98		
Foundtn Pens Pens	88.93	92.39		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	485.80	518.60	+ 6.70	
Bond	124.40	130.70	+ 0.20	6.42
Brit Smlr Cos	115.00	122.90	+ 0.10	1.98
Europe	402.40	426.70	- 0.50	
Euro Smlr Cos	136.50	145.20	- 0.10	0.30
High Income #	73.16	77.83†	+ 0.17	5.43
Income	446.00	474.50†	+ 0.80	3.59
Japan	285.00	302.80	- 1.20	...
Latin American	106.30	113.10	+ 2.80	
Pacific	82.59	87.86	+ 1.01	1.19
UK Smlr Cos	67.29	71.59	+ 0.41	1.28
Japanese Sm Cos	493.80	510.10†	- 1.00	
Mngd Fd	263.70	279.90	+ 1.00	2.43
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	453.60	479.50		0.73
Capital Gwth	176.30	186.50		2.26
Wwide Opps	251.10	265.60		0.83
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.00	101.00		6.80
Cash Acc	132.70	132.70		6.80
Income #	779.60	831.60†	+ 6.50	3.81
Income Builder #	88.77	94.53†	+ 0.75	4.25
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	120.20	127.90	+ 0.80	1.86
500	563.40	605.90†	+ 4.10	1.72
General	458.60	488.40	+ 2.90	1.32
Property	271.50	291.30		5.62
Trustee	318.50	338.90	+ 2.90	1.28
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	204.20	218.40†	+ 1.70	1.29
FTSE 100	149.00	158.10	+ 1.10	1.49
Growth Acc	643.60	684.60†	+ 3.90	1.18
Smaller Cos	65.29	69.63	+ 0.23	2.09
Smaller Cos Acc	78.63	83.87	+ 0.29	2.09
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	254.90	266.70	+ 1.30	0.02
American Growth	175.60	185.86	+ 1.20	
Japan	102.40	108.10†	- 0.50	
Japan Acc	105.68	109.30†	- 0.60	
Japan Spec Sits	46.58	49.26	- 0.15	
Worldwide	234.50	249.00	+ 1.10	0.80
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	49.48	51.19†	+ 0.10	6.66
Mngd Gwth & Inc #	49.56	52.52†	+ 0.20	4.50
Managed Growth	51.71	55.04	+ 0.26	0.50
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Brokerline 0800 731 2443				
Income Funds				
Distribution #	137.60	138.30†	+ 1.10	4.77
Equity Income #	189.80	202.40	+ 1.40	3.83
Gilt & Fx Int	63.60	65.95†	+ 0.21	6.91
Intl Fxd Int	99.94	103.30†	+ 0.10	5.14
Intl Fxd Int Acc	129.50	133.80	+ 0.19	5.14
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	583.30	623.70	+ 4.20	1.37
UK Growth Acc	583.30	623.70	+ 4.20	1.37
Growth & Inc	595.50	636.70	+ 4.60	1.33
Growth & Inc Acc	1295	1378	+10.00	1.33
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	271.00	286.80	+ 1.00	0.42
Euro Growth Acc	296.80	314.10	+ 1.10	0.42
Far Eastern Gwth	123.30	131.10	+ 0.80	1.13
Far East Gth Acc	209.30	222.70	+ 1.50	1.13
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	200.20	211.40	+ 0.10	
Amer Smllr Cos	182.10	193.10	+ 0.50	
Eastern	176.60	189.43		0.38
Equity Income #	135.70	144.40†		4.00
European Growth	567.30	602.50	+ 1.00	0.80
Europe	478.70	510.10	+ 1.30	0.60
German Growth	118.60	125.60		0.50
Global Bond	74.74	78.00†	- 0.02	4.90
Global Growth	199.30	211.60	+ 0.30	0.10
Japan Growth	125.10	132.80	- 1.80	
Japan Smaller	89.42	94.70	- 0.43	
Korea Trust	31.26	33.79	- 1.15	
Portfolio	192.60	205.00†	+ 0.22	2.07
-do- Accum	373.70	397.90	+ 0.40	2.07
UK Growth	153.20	163.30	- 0.10	1.60
UK Smaller Cos	142.70	154.20		1.00
Select Managers	103.10	110.10	+ 0.30	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	109.60	116.60†		
Special Oppor Inc	82.58	87.00†	+ 0.33	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	203.25	217.70	- 1.61	0.73
-do- Accum	240.40	250.41	- 1.90	0.93
Smaller Cos	198.36	206.63	+ 1.08	0.27
Higher Yield #	77.82	81.07	+ 0.50	3.21
American Gth Inc	142.52	148.45†	- 0.56	
European Growth	224.17	233.51†	- 2.34	
-do- Accum	228.56	238.50	- 2.33	
Mngd Ptflo Inc	64.32	67.00	+ 0.78	1.26
-do- Accum	67.40	70.21	+ 0.19	1.26
Intl Spec Opps	208.97	217.57	- 2.57	
Pacific Gth	114.05	118.81	- 2.79	0.45
UK General #	135.22	140.86	- 0.88	2.59
-do- Accum #	150.80	157.08	- 0.98	2.59
Japan	40.12	41.79†	- 0.35	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	110.51	114.52†	+ 0.46	7.04
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	84.11	84.93†	+ 0.03	6.44
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Europe	234.00	245.70	+ 0.50	1.35
UK Growth	303.10	318.20†	+ 2.70	1.24
UK Income	210.70	221.30	+ 1.80	3.11
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	323.50	321.60†		1.06
-do- Income Dist	171.20	181.40	+ 0.10	2.79
-do- Accum	577.60	612.20	+ 0.40	2.79
Gilt & Fxd Int	43.74	45.96†		5.00
Growth Units	365.30	389.90†	+ 0.20	1.45
Bond	189.30	199.10†	+ 0.50	5.70
Intl Growth	248.90	264.50	- 0.10	0.27
North American	353.80	375.30	+ 0.40	
Far East	199.80	213.70	- 0.70	0.99
UK Smaller Cos	286.70	306.60	- 0.79	0.94
European	129.30	137.50	- 0.20	0.47
Japanese Growth	29.95	31.75	- 0.28	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	301.20	321.40	+ 0.40	2.66
Eurogrowth Plus	221.34	235.47	- 0.74	0.10
Portfolio	104.59	111.37	+ 0.14	1.08
UK Income Inc	129.20	137.39†	+ 0.58	3.45
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	316.30	334.60	+ 1.60	..
European Inc	139.30	147.70		0.15
Smaller Cos (1-1)	120.20	127.80†	- 3.40	1.68
Growth	764.30	813.10†	+ 6.30	1.53
Income & Growth #	638.00	678.80†	+ 3.30	3.93
-do- Accum #	1015.00	1080.70	+ 3.50	3.93
Japan & Gen	50.87	53.88†	- 0.01	
Hallmark Gwth	1612.00	1680.00		1.37
-do- Accum	2029.00	2114.00	+ 1.00	1.37
Special Sits	176.40	187.70	+ 0.70	1.92
High Yield	2078.00	2143.00	+ 3.00	3.42
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	122.79	130.55	+ 0.20	2.22
American Portfolio	174.79	185.25	- 1.16	0.43
European Portfolio	189.34	201.39	- 0.10	0.32
High Income	56.08	58.99†	+ 0.17	8.36
Japanese Portfolio	48.90	51.85†	- 0.02	..
Pacific Portfolio	121.36	128.50	- 0.07	1.11
UK Equity	126.49	134.79	+ 0.23	2.87
UK Equity & Bd	72.48	76.75	+ 0.05	4.97
UK Smlr Cos	58.98	62.12†	- 0.07	1.85
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1016.88	1032.24	...	3.36
Inv Fd Acc	1051.54	1067.54	...	..
Fxd Int Sec Inc	168.86	169.54	...	7.55
Fxd Int Sec Acc	180.55	181.27	...	..
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	992.78	1007.78	..	3.45
Investment Acc	4821.23	4894.09	..	..
Fixed Int Inc	136.17	136.71	...	7.61
Fixed Int Acc	276.41	277.51	...	0.58
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	99.92	105.05		5.88
Beck Bio-Tech	41.30	44.57		
Acorn Ethical Tst	220.89	234.99	...	0.53
City Fin Assets	94.25	98.97	..	2.66
City Fin Intl	81.02	85.83		
Friars Hse Cap	415.88	442.40	..	2.14
Buckley Wrld Grth	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	88.26	89.66	- 0.20	3.35
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.94	55.11†	+ 0.68	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	107.50	114.38	+ 0.51	
Dragon Growth	47.23	50.51	- 0.08	1.23
Equity High Inc	128.30	135.78†	+ 0.11	2.61
-do- Accum	194.61	205.93	+ 0.18	2.61
Extra Income Inc	28.20	30.75	+ 0.06	5.80
Extra Income Acc	34.36	38.20	+ 0.07	5.80
European Gwth	93.92	99.39	- 0.36	...
Evergreen	38.57	41.25	+ 0.05	
General Equity	149.70	157.99	+ 0.31	1.80
Japan Growth	33.50	35.64	- 0.23	
Pedigree Gwth	92.43	97.80	+ 0.61	1.22
Pref Sm Cos Inc	46.16	48.85	+ 0.67	1.20
-do- Accum	49.71	52.60	+ 0.08	1.20
Retirement Inc #	37.23	39.61	+ 0.03	4.85
Special Sits	62.83	67.56	+ 0.18	1.91
UK & Overseas	74.79	79.14	- 0.18	0.3
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	88.41	92.09	+ 0.15	3.25
Capital	111.75	116.40†	+ 0.12	1.71
High Income	57.19	59.57†	+ 0.12	6.36
Top 50	83.51	86.98†	+ 0.03	1.88
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	261.03	271.93	+ 1.83	3.73
Long Gilt	51.98	54.11	- 0.08	4.92
Monthly Inc Plus	61.17	63.73	+ 0.16	7.03
Preference Shares	60.16	62.67	+ 0.03	8.22
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	180.57	188.11	+ 0.78	5.12
Managed Fund	92.02	95.86	+ 0.06	2.21
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	55.12	57.42	+ 0.03	1.48
-do- Accum	65.92	68.67	+ 0.04	1.48
UK & General	138.01	143.78	+ 0.11	1.88
-do- Accum	184.84	192.67	+ 0.13	1.88
UK Growth	273.33	284.75	- 0.09	1.38
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	313.94	327.05	+ 0.01	0.41
Far Eastern Grth	100.30	104.49	- 0.19	0.27
Global Bond	72.52	75.56	- 0.20	5.07
Japan Growth	89.79	93.54	- 0.32	..
North Amer Grth	337.01	351.09	- 0.44	..
Oriental Growth	60.80	63.13	- 0.11	0.77
Worldwide Growth	89.61	93.35	- 0.01	0.26
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.51	93.51	+ 0.01	6.89
Hermaeater Fund	111.52	118.65†	+ 0.37	1.89
Quilter Fund	194.86	207.09†	+ 0.54	1.86
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	46.09	49.23†		2.62
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	218.40	232.30	+ 0.10	1.17
Income	95.18	101.26†	+ 0.16	3.34
European Growth	107.00	113.60		
Recovery	238.90	254.20	- 2.10	1.72
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9484				
Equity Dist	1289.80	1311.80†		3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	95.34	101.08†	+ 0.20	0.31
Fellowship Tst	133.30	141.70	+ 0.20	1.03
Income #	377.20	401.20	+ 0.60	3.47
-do- Accum #	1043.00	1109.00	+ 2.80	3.47
Smaller Cos	256.70	273.00	- 0.30	0.68
-do- Accum	321.80	342.30	- 0.30	0.68
Gilt Portfolio	133.00	141.00†	+ 0.20	1.12
Mthly Inc Port #	111.70	118.60†	+ 0.10	3.29
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1934.80	1959.50†		0.67
UK Small Cos	2399.50	2506.80†		3.53
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	273.20	281.70		
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smlr Cos	212.80	226.30	+ 0.20	...
Asian Growth	195.30	207.70	- 2.70	0.30
Bond Income	109.30	113.48†	+ 0.40	6.60
European	267.50	284.58	+ 0.30	0.50
European Ptfo	138.60	147.80	- 0.20	0.30
European Special	185.30	197.10	+ 0.90	
Gilt Yield	129.40	136.58†		6.20
Global Eqty Inc	149.90	159.00†	- 0.10	1.40
High Yield	223.40	237.60	- 0.40	3.90
Japan	306.50	325.50	- 1.10	
Japanese Special	137.40	145.10	- 0.80	
Money Market	102.61	102.61†	+ 0.01	6.88
North American	154.90	164.70	+ 0.30	
Smaller Cos	174.00	185.10	+ 0.70	0.90
Smlr Cos Div	72.80	77.44†	+ 0.10	4.50
Tomorrows Co Ex	1315.00	1333.00	- 2.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	67.97	72.30†	+ 0.71	0.60
UK Index Inc	470.70	473.80	+ 0.40	2.59
Elections Tst	134.70	134.80		1.60
Global Income	272.70	290.10†	- 1.80	2.80
Formerly Thornton				
European	462.30	484.00	+ 0.20	0.30
Europe Bd	38.48	40.01	- 0.08	6.80
Exempt	950.60	986.10†	- 3.34	1.90
Global Em Mkts	78.14	81.82	+ 0.36	0.10
Japan Tst	64.55	67.59	- 0.43	..
Latin Dragons	74.59	78.10	- 0.18	
Nth Amer Gwth	425.10	444.70†	+ 1.01	0.60
Oriental Income #	37.54	39.30	- 0.04	5.00
Preference	156.30	163.80	+ 0.02	7.30
Tiger	202.10	211.50	- 0.03	..
UK Blue Chip	119.00	124.50	- 0.25	1.18
UK Growth	906.40	949.00	- 0.73	1.40
UK High Yield #	161.40	168.90†	- 0.19	3.90
UK Mid-Cap	439.40	460.00	+ 0.06	1.10
UK Smlr Cos Div #	92.65	97.01†	+ 0.27	5.80
UK Smlr Cos	152.70	159.80	+ 0.57	0.10
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 080 526				
Convertibles #	28.40	29.85†	+ 0.08	4.99
Enterprise	129.50	137.30	- 0.10	1.82
Equity Income #	191.90	203.90†	+ 0.58	3.14
European	95.79	98.52	- 0.20	..
Financial	84.47	89.75	- 0.24	1.11
Growth & Inc #	332.90	418.50†	+ 0.60	2.08
High Dist #	243.40	258.30	+ 0.40	3.29
International	473.40	502.50	+ 0.70	
Intl Cap Inc	127.70	136.30	- 0.20	1.98
Latin American	36.19	38.45	+ 0.82	
Mgd Gwth Port	106.50	111.30†		0.63
Pacific	70.31	74.70	- 0.43	
Pref High Inc	27.03	28.72	+ 0.01	6.27
Tokyo	148.40	156.90	- 1.08	
UK Smaller Cos	291.50	309.70	+ 0.60	1.13
Japan Sm Cos	249.10	263.80	- 0.70	
Nth Amer	578.20	611.30	+ 1.40	
UP Inc & Grth	359.40	382.50	+ 0.10	2.09
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	128.64	137.00		0.94
Growth Acc	349.40	367.80		0.17
Income	827.10	745.90†		4.17
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	268.90	286.10		0.89
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	137.21	138.12	- 0.62	1.20
Ethical Tst	58.88	61.98	- 0.52	0.84
Far Eastern	231.45	243.63	- 1.79	1.85
High Income	193.05	203.21	- 1.05	3.56
UK Index Trckng	74.26	78.19†	- 0.49	2.16
Intl Growth	146.86	154.59	- 1.00	1.11
North American	207.63	218.56	- 1.95	1.24
Pelican	199.86	210.38	- 0.91	2.36
Smaller Cos	82.94	87.31	+ 0.22	2.02
Special Sits	180.84	185.15	+ 0.04	2.85
Tst of Inv Tsts	255.52	268.97†	+ 0.62	1.63
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	172.66	183.19	+ 0.57	..
Fd of Inv Tsts	66.06	70.09	+ 0.39	0.41
High Income #	48.33	51.31	+ 0.11	9.74
Warr & Cl Opps	81.23	85.84†	+ 0.38	...
Zero Preference	50.69	53.78		
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Acomd Tst	135.70	144.30†	+1.400	1.98
United Charities	384.30	408.80	+3.900	2.27
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree. Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		7.00
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.31	27.28	- 0.02	4.64
Strategic Inc	31.39	32.79†	- 0.02	5.14
Income Funds				
High Income	33.47	35.09†	+ 0.02	4.40
Income Plus #	190.80	202.10†		3.44
European Income	68.69	72.93†	- 0.01	1.25
Moneybuilder Gwth #	44.47	47.79†	+ 0.01	2.12
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	30.29	32.31	- 0.25	.
American	466.50	495.30	- 0.70	
Amer Spec Sits	247.40	263.40	- 2.08	
Japan Smaller Cos	19.09	20.29†	- 0.17	
European	329.50	350.40	- 0.70	0.30
European Opps	125.10	132.80	- 0.10	0.43
Global Priv	43.48	46.24	+ 0.09	0.35
UK Growth	173.70	184.70	+ 1.60	1.05
Growth & Inc #	253.40	269.50		2.22
Intl PEP	65.98	70.16	- 0.06	0.58
Japan Spec Sits	61.23	64.93†	- 0.51	
Japan	152.80	161.70	- 0.80	
Managed Intl	488.10	496.00†	- 0.80	0.54
Moneybuilder Plus	84.15	84.75	+ 0.32	0.31
Recovery	73.75	78.42	+ 0.74	1.74

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
South E Asia	186.40	188.60	+ 0.90	1.24
Special Sits	975.20	1037.00	+ 4.00	1.03
Specialist Funds				
Cwth Accum Units	123.99	123.99	+ 0.02	7.00
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	181.40	183.10		1.50
Fiduciary Prf Inc #	114.28	115.00†	+ 0.10	5.30
Cap Ptflo	206.18	207.60		
General Oppo	180.70	181.60		2.97
Growth Inc	52.32	52.77	- 0.05	1.05
Private Portfolio	615.80	621.50†		1.01
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Enq 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	197.30	209.60	- 0.20	..
High Income	24.10	25.53†	+ 0.01	8.81
Japan Smlr Cos	12.23	13.11	- 0.06	
US Smaller Cos	579.59	615.10	+ 3.90	...
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	114.80	121.80†	+ 0.18	..
-do- Accum	114.90	121.80†	+ 0.18	..
Amer Smlr Cos	827.20	878.60	+ 4.98	..
-do- Accum	845.10	897.80	+ 4.60	..
Capital Tst	444.70	473.10	+ 2.50	1.26
-do- Accum	662.00	704.30	+ 3.70	1.26
Cont Smlr Cos	74.34	79.21	- 0.08	...
-do- Accum	79.77	84.89	- 0.10	..
Convertible	155.10	165.00	- 0.50	5.83
-do- Accum	380.70	383.70	+ 1.30	5.83
Emerging Markets	60.13	64.24	- 0.05	0.07
-do- Accum	60.64	64.79	- 0.04	0.07
European	220.60	233.70	- 0.80	..
-do- Accum	234.50	248.50	- 0.70	..
Extra Income	524.60	557.40†	+ 1.00	3.99
-do- Accum	872.70	928.40†	+ 1.60	3.99
Financial	275.80	293.40	- 0.80	0.94
-do- Accum	295.40	314.30	- 0.90	0.94
Gilt Trust	64.90	66.81	- 0.04	7.04
-do- Accum	106.80	110.20	- 0.18	7.04
Health Fund Inc	302.40	321.70	+ 0.50	...
-do- Accum	302.40	321.70	+ 0.50	...
Income & Growth	304.80	324.10	+ 0.40	3.77
-do- Accum	506.50	540.70	+ 0.60	3.77
Intl Growth	511.60	544.10	+ 0.10	..
-do- Accum	568.00	604.10	+ 0.10	..
Japan & Gen	125.80	133.60†	- 0.50	..
-do- Accum	127.10	134.90†	- 0.60	..
Monthly Inc #	265.50	282.40†	+ 1.00	3.98
-do- Accum #	278.10	295.90†	+ 1.00	3.98
Managed Port Inc	143.20	150.70	- 1.60	1.19
-do- Accum	157.50	165.80	- 1.70	1.19
Quarterly Income #	70.10	74.79†	+ 0.18	4.81
-do- Accum #	85.63	91.35†	+ 0.20	4.81
Recovery	328.40	351.20†	+ 1.50	.
-do- Accum	387.70	414.70†	+ 1.90	.
UK Growth	84.43	89.82	+ 0.25	1.25
-do- Accum	93.29	98.24	+ 0.27	1.25
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	88.89	92.36	+ 0.30	..
FP Am Smllr Cos	232.40	247.80	+ 2.30	..
FP Asian Growth	178.50	190.40	+ 1.50	..
FP Australian	444.80	474.40	- 0.60	..
FP Equity Dist	633.20	675.40	+ 4.40	1.54
-do- Accum	1446.00	1542.00	+11.00	1.54
FP Euro Gth	436.80	465.90	+ 1.30	..
-do- Accum	478.50	510.40	+ 1.40	..
FP Intl Bond	57.07	60.39†	- 0.02	4.01
FP Intl Gth Dist	47.97	51.16	+ 0.12	..
-do- Accum	70.72	75.43	+ 0.19	..
FP Pac Basin Acc	177.70	189.50	+ 0.30	0.14
FP Income #	79.45	84.74	+ 0.66	3.95
-do- Accum #	295.80	315.50	+ 2.50	3.95
FP Jap Smllr Cos	176.10	187.80	+ 0.30	..
FP Monthly Dist #	92.71	98.88†	+ 0.47	4.45
FP Stlg Deposit	100.90	100.90		6.58
FP [illegible]	66.80	71.25	- 0.15	..
FP UK Focus	59.18	63.12	+ 0.30	1.10
FP UK Growth	277.30	295.70	+ 1.30	1.10
-do- Accum	575.80	613.60	+ 2.90	1.10
Stewardship Dist	525.20	560.20	+ 1.70	1.19
-do- Accum	672.70	717.50	+ 2.20	1.19
Stewdshp Inc Dist #	82.88	88.40†	+ 0.30	4.45
-do- Accum #	121.90	130.80	+ 0.50	4.45
N Am Stshp Dist	171.00	182.40	+ 1.20	
-do- Accum	184.10	196.30	+ 1.20	
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	139.20	139.80	+ 0.70	2.36
Inst Ethical Ac #	142.80	143.30	+ 0.80	2.36
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	160.70	170.90	+ 0.30	0.49
Open Cap Gth Acc	158.70	168.80	+ 0.30	0.14
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	141.90	150.90†	+ 0.30	2.43
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	155.40	165.37	+ 0.30	2.43
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	146.80	156.16†	+ 0.38	3.08
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	163.70	174.10	+ 0.40	3.08
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 1097				
CANDA	413.80	435.60	+ 5.30	1.07
Cash	49.51	50.26†	+ 0.10	6.33
Income Portfolio	92.16	97.91†	+ 0.94	2.45
GA Equity Gth	318.40	330.20†	+ 3.50	1.12
GA European Gth	188.90	200.00	+ 1.90	
GA Japan Gth	80.79	85.77	- 0.40	
GA Nth Amer Gth	328.70	348.00	+ 0.30	
GA Intl Gth	152.60	162.20	+ 1.00	
For Kleinwort Benson see Dresdner RCM				
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	279.40	298.40	+ 0.90	0.11
European Gth	992.50	1053.80	- 1.80	0.23
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	55.12	58.94	- 0.07	3.07
-do- Accum	76.01	80.46	- 0.07	3.07
High Yield #	55.04	58.13†	+ 0.14	6.79
-do- Accum #	66.48	70.21	+ 0.17	6.79
Income Inc	258.20	274.10†	+ 2.10	3.01
-do- Accum	306.30	327.60	+ 2.30	3.01
Intl Growth	438.90	462.80	+ 1.40	1.81
Intl Income	128.70	136.20		1.87
Japan Growth	393.70	417.10	- 0.30	..
Orient Acc	148.30	158.20	+ 1.10	0.19
UK General Inc	262.00	279.90†	+ 2.20	1.09
UK General Acc	475.60	508.20	+ 4.00	1.09
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	79.89	85.23	+ 0.35	1.36
US Growth	260.80	275.80	+ 0.70	...
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	83.07	88.51†	- 0.56	1.54
Practical Inv Inc #	152.83	163.45	+ 0.43	2.94
-do- Accum #	380.16	406.59	+ 1.08	2.94
UK Index	240.60	249.85†	+ 0.20	2.48
UK Smaller Cos	275.71	294.88	+ 1.06	0.23
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.46	27.44	+ 0.07	6.67
High Income	47.39	50.54†	+ 0.10	3.23
UK Growth & Inc	216.11	230.22†	+ 0.79	2.24
Global Bond	27.76	28.77	- 0.05	5.28
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	44.58	47.60	+ 0.73	
Global Managed	168.22	178.32	+ 0.84	1.06
Gold & Intl Res	80.11	85.68	+ 0.29	
Global Utilities	202.28	215.41	+ 0.77	0.23
Overseas Funds				
American	269.72	285.19	- 0.19	0.40
European	194.00	208.10†	+ 0.31	0.34
Euro Sel Opps	316.77	336.51†	- 0.42	.
Amer Emerging	228.74	237.98	- 0.61	.
Hong Kong	132.21	141.54†	+ 1.43	2.35
Japan	152.61	161.88	- 1.06	..
Pacific Growth	158.35	170.02	- 0.15	0.54
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	156.30	156.39	+ 0.03	6.93
Managed Equity	318.56	318.56	+ 0.38	1.30
Long Term Bal	333.71	333.71	- 0.14	2.54
Med Term Bal	274.17	274.17	+ 0.25	2.59
UK Equity	410.80	410.90	+ 0.86	1.61
UK Emerging Cos	205.21	205.21	+ 0.71	1.95
American	450.92	450.92†	- 0.08	0.18
Japan	92.55	92.55†	- 0.07	.
European	504.09	504.09†	+ 0.11	0.48
Index Linked Gilt	214.73	214.73†	+ 0.89	2.46
Fixed Interest	208.44	208.44†	- 0.02	6.84
Amer Emerging	497.21	497.21†	- 0.78	
Pacific	140.92	140.92	- 0.87	1.41
Emerging Mkts	131.26	131.26†	+ 1.44	0.69
Index Strat Japan	102.78	102.78†	- 0.71	0.35
-do- Pacific Rim	132.28	132.28†	- 1.06	2.17
-do- Cont Europe	273.11	273.11†	- 0.22	0.99
Index Strat USA	280.78	280.78†	- 0.35	1.02
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	158.77	160.38	+ 0.18	.
Med Term Bal	131.51	138.90	+ 0.13	
Long Term Bal	150.99	160.62	- 0.07	
UK Equity	192.28	204.55	+ 0.43	.
UK Emerging Cos	97.04	103.23	+ 0.36	.
American	203.78	223.17	- 0.08	.
Japan	44.30	47.13	- 0.03	..
European	210.33	223.75	+ 0.05	..
Fixed Interest	108.40	115.32	+ 0.05	
Index Linked Gilt	95.86	101.98	+ 0.05	
Deposit	94.70	100.74	+ 0.13	
Boston Unit Trusts				
Brit Inf	178.23	188.77†	+ 0.52	0.45
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Gwth Inc ‡	818.60		+ 9.34	
-do- Accum ‡	979.19		+10.80	
European Gth Inc ‡	233.90		- 0.58	0.22
Amalgam Inc	197.86	208.49	+ 4.63	...
N Amer Gwth Inc ‡	200.87		+ 5.90	
Far East Gth Inc ‡	269.34		- 0.75	0.52
-do- Accum ‡	281.00		+ 0.78	0.46
UK Divid Inc ‡	267.23		+ 2.16	0.99
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9888				
European	800.70	855.40	+ 8.70	.
Gilt & Fixed	143.10	151.70†	+ 0.20	5.09
Growth Equity	567.80	605.70	+ 5.00	0.96
Income Trust	205.50	219.50	+ 1.30	3.54
International	245.00	261.70	+ 1.00	
Japan Trust	94.60	100.40	- 0.20	
Nth American	481.20	514.00	+ 1.90	
Pacific	387.20	413.60	- 0.90	0.44
Growth	813.40	869.00†	+ 5.80	1.12
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2123				
European Bond	97.68	101.36†	- 0.25	4.50
Global High Inc	94.52	98.69	- 0.41	5.01
Stlg Bond Pflo	116.32	120.73	+ 0.07	5.62
Cntl Mgd Pflo	144.26	153.33	+ 0.37	4.05
European Pflo	191.21	192.87	- 0.08	
World Ldrs Pflo	91.06	96.82	- 0.79	0.16
UK Eq Inc Pflo	194.45	206.74†	- 1.09	2.70
-do- Accum	299.60	318.35	- 1.66	2.70
UK Opps	673.30	699.50	+ 2.60	2.00
-do- Accum	700.10	744.40	+ 3.30	2.00
St Vinc High Inc	150.35	160.72	- 1.00	5.19
Global Emerg Cos	297.90	316.70	+ 0.50	3.19
Inst UK Sm Co	388.40	395.20		3.85
Glob Prv Tst	152.99	162.67	+ 0.45	1.22
-do- Accum	160.02	170.15	+ 0.48	1.22
Inc Share Tst	120.62	128.47†	+ 0.21	6.75
HK & China Tst	80.23	85.42	- 0.68	1.63
Blue Chip Pflo	332.07	353.07	- 0.60	1.67
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Balanced Inc	72.41	76.79†	+ 0.30	2.53
Balanced Acc	76.97	81.61	+ 0.34	2.53
Growth	45.73	48.49†	+ 0.17	1.34
Growth Acc	48.33	51.25	+ 0.18	1.34
Income	42.66	45.24†	+ 0.21	3.49
Income Acc	47.84	50.73	+ 0.26	3.49
Accumulator Tst	38.93	41.75	+ 0.15	2.40
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Port Acc	59.11	62.72	+ 0.32	2.42
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 484949 Dealing: 0645 484846				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	478.02	511.47†	+ 1.26	0.05
Best of British	97.80	103.74	+ 0.38	1.22
UK Smaller Cos	185.15	199.63†	- 0.22	1.16
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	416.74	443.82	- 0.52	2.25
-do- Accum #	1227.10	1306.91	+ 1.55	2.25
High Income	453.67	484.96†	+ 2.10	3.36
Extra Income #	374.99	398.79†	+ 0.72	4.99
Pref & Bond	57.93	61.03†	+ 0.11	6.37
International				
Ethical	158.63	169.85†	+ 0.63	1.52
International	376.88	399.55	+ 1.08	0.29
Global Bond	53.76	56.08†	- 0.07	5.20
Intl Port Tst	121.88	130.13	+ 0.52	0.10
Global Tech	313.68	333.94	- 3.65	..
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	157.35	168.15	- 0.72	1.05
European	885.45	938.70	- 1.43	
European Income #	126.46	134.00†	- 0.32	2.59
Euro Smlr Cos	235.55	252.83	+ 0.56	
European Value	125.23	133.59	+ 0.02	..
-do- Accum	135.34	144.25	+ 0.02	
Japan Trust	136.49	145.95†	+ 0.30	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Smlr Cos	118.36	125.87	- 0.40	...
Pacific Smlr Cos	177.44	189.03	- 1.26	...
North American	459.08	488.50	- 0.17	...
American Smaller	252.75	268.59	+ 1.08	...
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 520853				
British	177.75	186.12	- 0.19	1.47
Capital	260.66	272.93†	- 0.18	0.97
Dollar	693.81	725.86	- 2.88	..
Enterprise Gth	583.04	611.46	- 0.88	0.53
European	383.89	402.09	- 1.38	..
Far East	207.27	217.04	- 0.37	0.78
Financial	1637.11	1714.25	-10.77	1.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	28.97	30.13†	+ 0.05	5.64
High Yield #	155.12	162.43	+ 0.03	3.71
Income & Growth #	230.63	241.50	+ 0.01	2.69
International	364.51	381.89	- 0.51	0.34
Japanese General	151.42	158.56	- 0.13	...
Japan Tech	66.29	69.42	- 0.15	...
Nat Resources	60.27	63.11	- 0.08	1.10
Portfolio	106.72	111.75	- 0.04	2.14
Special Sits	278.69	291.82†	- 0.10	0.90
UK Emerging Cos	141.97	148.59	+ 0.46	0.94
US Smaller Cos	199.75	209.17	+ 1.32	...
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	884.80	944.10†	+ 1.10	3.83
UK Growth	959.10	1021	- 1.00	1.18
High Income #	158.60	167.10†	+ 0.60	5.07
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	851.20	899.60	+ 0.10	..
European Gwth	227.10	241.50	- 1.20	..
Japan Gth	224.90	239.00	- 1.20	..
Japan Smlr Cos	19.91	21.25†	- 0.04	..
Asian	40.03	42.72	- 0.07	0.99
Sing & Malay Gwth	43.48	46.38	- 1.54	..
Hong Kong Gwth	153.10	163.20†	+ 1.60	0.82
Global Bond	20.63	21.95	- 0.03	5.02
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	234.20	235.40	+ 0.30	2.27
Tribe Index	149.60	152.50†	+ 0.90	2.27
THE FOOTSIE FUND	95.90	98.41	+ 0.07	1.55
Index Funds-International				
American Index	421.70	423.80†		0.46
Eurotrack 100	281.20	282.60†	- 0.50	0.65
Japan Index	54.67	55.15†	- 0.44	0.73
Tiger Index	107.30	109.80	- 0.80	1.41
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Funds				
UK Smaller Cos	56.23	59.73†	+ 0.06	1.37
General Funds				
Managed Dist	108.50	111.80		0.95
Managed	111.30	116.20		0.95
Regent Child Fnd	150.70	157.10	+ 0.30	0.65
UK Growth	94.32	98.51	+ 0.32	1.08
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	117.10	122.80†	+ 1.30	4.85
Gilt & Fixed Int #	29.39	30.37	+ 0.05	7.23
UK Inc & Gwth	66.86	69.81	+ 0.20	2.94
UK Income #	517.80	540.80	+ 1.60	3.27
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	83.25	88.13†	+ 0.24	
Amer Smlr Cos	205.60	213.80	- 0.10	
-do- Accum	207.80	216.10	- 0.20	
Europe Gth	353.80	368.20	- 1.20	.
-do- Accum	368.20	381.40	- 1.20	.
Euro Smaller Cos	61.02	63.53	+ 0.06	
French Growth	125.50	130.10†	- 2.20	0.48
-do- Accum	135.80	140.90†	- 2.30	0.48
H Kong & China	105.10	109.50	+ 0.40	0.85
Intl Growth	83.33	86.85	- 0.62	0.47
-do- Accum	85.02	88.44	- 0.02	0.47
Japan Gth	20.93	21.81	- 0.13	...
-do- Accum	20.93	21.81	- 0.13	...
Japan Smaller Cos	20.38	21.27	- 0.02	...
Glob Emg Mkts	93.50	94.52	+ 0.88	0.04
-do- Accum	91.14	95.19	+ 0.98	0.04
SE Asia	215.90	225.50†	- 0.88	0.69
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	48.89	51.41†	- 0.04	5.11
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	153.30	162.20	+ 1.10	2.52
UK Growth	159.80	169.10	+ 1.30	1.25
Euro Growth	133.40	141.40	+ 0.60	1.58
Slater Gwth	268.50	282.00	+ 0.30	0.71
New Japan	64.13	68.13	+ 0.24	
Global Growth	110.10	116.40	+ 0.30	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	179.50	190.98†	- 0.40	
Income #	290.50	309.03†	+ 1.45	3.68
UK Growth	110.55	117.68†	+ 0.21	1.61
Intl Growth	105.02	111.71†	- 0.17	..
Ecology	124.81	132.77	- 0.25	0.56
European	287.52	305.19†	- 0.43	0.43
Far Eastern	271.90	289.20†	- 1.30	
UK Special Sits	75.94	81.00	- 0.18	0.32
Fd of Inv Tsts	65.16	69.49†	+ 0.23	0.39
High Income #	68.52	70.94	+ 0.27	4.85
Financial Opps	85.04	89.37†	+ 0.48	0.12
Growth & Income #	54.92	58.58	+ 0.10	3.00

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 556 8800				
Bridge Income	412.62	438.98	+ 1.76	4.05
Ext Growth	133.84	142.38	+ 5.23	0.48
Inc & Growth	98.10	104.36	+ 0.15	2.98
Smaller Cos	118.14	125.68	+ 0.64	1.30
Ever Spec Sit Inc	69.75	74.20	+ 0.13	1.55
Ever Spec Sit Acc	73.82	78.53	+ 0.13	1.55
Pension Growth	61.76	65.70	+ 0.05	1.96
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	610.60	647.80†	+ 0.90	1.34
UK Inc/Gth #	642.70	681.90†	+ 1.80	2.82
UK Income #	456.40	484.20†	+ 3.40	3.89
UK Income Acc #	465.10	493.40†	+ 3.40	4.06
UK Sm Cos	350.30	374.60†	+ 1.40	1.74
Euro Gwth	218.50	232.10	+ 0.10	0.23
N Amer Gwth	164.00	173.50	- 0.40	
Pacific Growth	6.97	7.40	+ 0.07	0.19
Emg Mkts Gwth	70.69	75.21	+ 0.70	
Japan Growth	46.10	48.91	- 0.05	..
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	88.11	93.10†	+ 0.48	0.57
Gwth Port Acc	90.00	95.18†	+ 0.49	0.58
Inc Port Inc	82.70	87.46†	+ 0.35	3.12
Inc Port Acc	95.82	101.34†	+ 0.40	2.99
Wwide Port	67.36	71.23	+ 0.31	.
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 883512				
Equity Dist ⊕	820.30	820.30†	..	1.77
-do- Accum ⊕	1743.00	1743.00†	..	1.77
Equity Income #	134.20	134.20†	..	4.29
UK Tactical Alloctn ⊕	93.89	93.89	..	4.99
European ⊕	206.50	206.50†		0.05
Far Eastern ⊕	173.80	173.80		
Fixed Interest ⊕	60.23	60.23	..	7.09
Gilt ⊕	100.50	100.50		5.74
Global Smaller ⊕	92.88	92.88		0.22
Intl Bond ⊕	48.61	48.61†		5.04
Japanese ⊕	53.33	53.33		
North American ⊕	310.10	310.10†		0.07
Pacific Growth ⊕	84.32	84.32		0.83
Pacific Index ⊕	33.99	33.99		2.88
UK Index ⊕	107.60	107.60		2.25
UK Recovery ⊕	153.40	153.40		1.28
UK Smaller Cos ⊕	196.90	196.90		1.05
US Index ⊕	122.90	122.90	..	0.63
European Index ⊕	131.50	131.50†		0.79
Japan Index ⊕	28.21	28.21		0.04
Worldwide ⊕	122.90	122.90†		1.16
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	77.54	82.83	- 0.21	1.85
Income	89.62	95.84	+ 0.09	3.44
Far East	31.84	34.05	- 0.11	.
North American	178.20	187.90	+ 0.70	.
Global	100.70	107.70†	- 0.10	0.34
European	145.80	155.40†	- 0.70	0.52
Japan	68.91	71.45	- 0.34	.
Intl Currency Sel	56.80	60.20	- 0.08	4.91
SE Asia	62.69	67.04	- 0.12	0.64
UK Cap Growth	138.80	148.40	+ 0.30	1.58
Recovery Trust	107.30	114.40	+ 0.30	2.41
Managed	81.32	87.61†	- 0.04	1.50
Cash	50.35	50.33†	- 0.01	6.73
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 330 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	576.50	613.30	+ 4.10	1.53
-do- Accum	1402.00	1492.00	+10.00	1.53
Cont Euro Gth	108.70	114.50	+ 1.00	0.07
-do- Accum	117.80	124.00	+ 1.10	0.07
Extra Inc #	402.60	428.30	+ 7.60	2.95
Extra Inc Acc #	1159.00	1233.00	+21.00	2.95
FTSE 100 Inc	180.30	191.50	+ 1.50	1.62
FTSE 100 Acc	191.70	204.00	+ 1.60	1.62
German Gth	191.30	201.40	+ 1.70	0.08
-do- Accum	200.60	211.20	+ 1.70	0.08
Growth Port	871.40	927.10	+14.50	0.24
-do- Accum	917.80	976.40	+15.30	0.24
High Interest Inc	112.50	116.40	- 0.20	6.56
High Interest Acc	126.00	132.70	+ 0.30	6.56
Hi Reserve Inc #	133.10	141.60†	+ 0.90	4.81
Hi Reserve Acc #	156.60	165.50	+ 1.00	4.81
Income Inc #	792.70	843.30	+15.00	3.07
Income Acc #	2331.00	2480.00	+43.00	3.07
Income Port	723.60	736.90†	+12.30	3.55
-do- Accum	871.80	928.40	+15.20	3.55
Japan Growth	78.09	83.08	- 0.27	
-do- Accum	78.37	83.38	- 0.25	
Master Trust	86.06	90.49	+ 0.47	1.18
-do- Accum	99.92	106.30	+ 0.60	1.18
N American Acc	130.40	138.90	+ 1.40	1.71
N American Gth	344.80	366.80	+ 0.10	0.58
-do- Accum	391.10	414.60	+ 0.30	0.90
Pacific Sm Co Inc	245.20	260.90	+ 2.30	
-do- Accum	250.30	266.30	+ 2.30	
Pacific Basin	171.20	182.20†	+ 0.80	0.72
-do- Accum	184.60	196.40	+ 0.90	0.72
Safety First Acc	123.40	129.90†	+ 0.70	1.33
Do Guld 27/7/98 $	109.20			
Smllr Cos Rec	591.80	629.00	+18.60	1.82
-do- Accum	831.00	874.80	+26.30	1.82
UK Eq Gth	234.00	249.00	+ 1.70	2.84
UK Eq Inc #	185.20	197.10	+ 1.50	3.09
UK Growth	149.30	158.80	+ 1.10	1.36
-do- Accum	191.10	203.30	+ 1.40	1.36
Worldwide Gth	443.20	471.50	+ 2.70	0.33
-do- Accum	656.00	697.90	+ 4.00	0.33
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	150.82	161.82	+ 1.36	2.00
Income	101.02	108.38†	+ 0.68	3.70

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
International	86.35	92.64	+ 0.30	0.30
Tst of Inv Trusts	92.72	99.48	+ 0.54	1.00
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	677.40	715.10†	+ 3.90	0.47
-do- Accum	850.80	898.40†	+ 4.50	0.42
Amer Recovery	828.00	873.60	- 2.40	0.22
-do- Accum	957.70	1012.60	- 2.70	0.22
Amer Smllr Cos	198.00	210.30†	- 0.20	...
-do- Accum	203.30	214.60†	- 0.30	...
Australasian	202.40	214.00†	- 2.20	2.13
-do- Accum	261.30	276.30†	- 2.90	2.13
Blue Chip #	97.48	97.94	+ 0.28	3.22
-do- Accum #	301.20	302.77	+ 0.85	3.22
British Opps	72.42	78.07	+ 0.50	2.30
-do- Accum	261.10	276.20	+ 1.80	2.30
Capital	1216.80	1285.80†	+ 4.10	2.35
-do- Accum	1500.90	1587.20†	+ 5.00	2.35
Charifund #	1065.70	1078.40	+ 0.60	4.53
-do- Accum #	5822.10	5891.40	+ 3.30	4.53
Commodity	344.30	364.10†		1.42
-do- Accum	511.80	540.50†		1.42
Corporate Bond	29.40	29.48	+ 0.04	8.20
Dividend	59.10	62.50	+ 0.20	3.80
-do- Accum	278.40	294.80	+ 1.00	3.80
Equity Income #	415.10	439.00	+ 1.00	4.53
-do- Accum #	601.50	636.20	+ 1.50	4.53
European	886.40	937.40	- 1.80	0.30
-do- Accum	1144.10	1209.90	- 2.30	0.30
Euro Dividend #	110.40	116.70	- 0.10	3.00
-do- Accum #	145.90	154.30	- 0.20	3.00
Euro Smlr Cos	67.50	71.40	+ 0.10	0.50
-do- Accum	67.70	71.60		0.50
Extra Income	636.30	672.90	+ 1.90	4.29
-do- Accum	2243.80	2372.90	+ 5.50	4.29
Fund of Inv Tsts	862.80	912.40	+ 4.10	1.16
-do- Accum	1692.20	1789.40	+ 8.00	1.16
Gilt Income	69.33	69.45†	+ 0.01	5.60
-do- Accum	227.60	227.99†	+ 0.04	5.60
Gold	39.10	41.30		0.51
-do- Accum	47.30	49.50	- 0.10	0.51
High Interest	25.12	25.12†	+ 0.04	7.27
Income #	45.00	47.60	+ 0.10	3.83
-do- Accum #	203.30	215.40	+ 0.60	3.83
Intl Growth	99.70	105.40†	- 0.10	0.67
-do- Accum	177.60	187.80†	- 0.10	0.67
International Inc #	137.40	145.30	+ 0.20	3.83
-do- Accum #	228.10	241.30	+ 0.30	3.83
Japan	26.50	28.00	- 0.10	0.01
-do- Accum	28.50	30.00	- 0.10	0.01
Japan Smlr Cos	89.90	95.00	- 0.90	0.02
-do- Accum	90.50	95.60	- 0.80	0.02
Managed Gwth	31.70	31.96	+ 0.04	1.27
Managed Income #	37.50	37.82†	+ 0.07	4.04
Pension Ex	1498.30	1505.10	+ 5.80	2.93
Recovery	62.30	65.90	+ 0.20	2.33
-do- Accum	110.70	117.30	+ 0.40	2.33
Smaller Cos	74.60	78.90†	+ 0.50	2.14
-do- Accum	160.50	169.80†	+ 1.00	2.14
Sth East Asia	272.80	288.30†	- 1.20	1.76
-do- Accum	370.20	391.50†	- 1.60	1.76
Trustee #	56.50	59.70	+ 0.10	4.64
-do- Accum #	259.90	271.50	+ 0.50	4.64
UK Equity #	90.00	95.20	+ 0.40	3.81
-do- Accum #	257.20	272.30	+ 1.30	3.81
UK Growth	1496.00	1582.00	+ 5.60	1.58
-do- Accum	1692.00	1789.30	+ 6.30	1.58
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	149.92	159.48	+ 0.08	0.25
Intl Bond	62.15	65.28	+ 0.29	3.45
Intl Equity Growth	103.93	110.34	+ 0.03	0.40
N Amer Growth	193.25	204.94†	+ 0.61	0.39
Special Sits Growth	38.64	40.99†	+ 0.44	1.82
UK Growth	641.88	682.85	+ 0.76	1.91
-do- Accum	905.10	962.87	+ 0.75	1.91
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01820 825667				
Balanced Fd #	1538.00	1559.10		2.78
Income #	1249.40	1265.70†		4.09
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	213.40	218.10		3.23
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 815 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	108.20	118.50	+ 0.10	...
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	107.10	118.50†	+ 0.20	6.01
Investment Pflo	225.30	232.20	+ 0.40	1.87
-do- Accum	275.00	283.50	+ 0.50	1.87
UK Select Pflo	218.30	226.10	+ 0.60	1.61
-do- Accum	271.90	280.30	+ 0.70	1.61
UK 100 Cos	171.90	171.80†	+ 0.40	1.74
-do- Accum	178.50	178.50†	+ 0.50	1.74
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 642				
Managed Tst	81.84	87.085†		2.69
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4846				
Intl Income	107.30	113.90†	+ 1.00	3.78
European	142.90	151.70†	+ 1.10	0.22
Income #	111.30	118.20†	+ 0.80	2.69
Nth American	120.30	127.70	+ 0.50	0.18
Far East	142.30	151.10	- 1.40	...
Japan	53.54	56.82†	- 0.25	...
Emging Mkts	81.91	87.80†	- 0.05	0.65
Intl Growth	150.20	159.52	+ 1.70	0.54
UK Growth	156.30	165.90	- 0.10	1.64
UK Smlr Co	67.81	71.77	- 0.25	1.53
Asia Pacific	29.35	31.39	- 0.21	0.10
Glob Gwth PEP	79.11	83.97	+ 0.95	0.53
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	119.70	127.40	+ 1.10	...
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Income	658.42	700.45†	+ 1.11	2.56
Global Inc	98.06	104.32†	- 0.13	2.32
Brit Leaders Inc	506.66	539.00†	+ 0.98	1.73
Intl Leaders	308.70	328.40†	+ 0.89	0.32
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	387.80	408.10	+2.500	..
-do- Accum	413.80	438.30	+2.600	..
American Opps	158.60	168.20	+1.400	..
-do- Accum	160.60	170.30	+1.400	..
Bal Port	120.10	127.40	+0.800	2.33
-do- Accum	151.30	160.60	+1.300	2.33
British Blue Chip	138.20	146.80	+1.800	2.25
-do- Accum	183.30	194.80	+2.300	2.25
Cash	100.70	100.70		7.09
-do- Accum	258.70	258.70	+0.100	7.09
Emerging Mkts	138.90	149.80	+2.200	0.22
-do- Accum	132.80	142.80	+2.200	0.22
European Growth	471.90	499.20	- 0.20	0.11
-do- Accum	515.10	545.00	- 0.10	0.11
General	787.70	837.30†	+6.100	1.92
-do- Accum	1680.00	1785.00†	+13.00	1.92
Global Bond	129.80	136.30	+0.100	3.72
-do- Accum	180.60	189.70	+0.100	3.72
Gold & General	126.50	135.70	+0.100	0.49
-do- Accum	130.90	140.50	+0.100	0.49
Govt Securities	103.00	108.10	+0.100	5.34
-do- Accum	232.20	239.40	+0.400	5.34
High Yield Bd	118.70	113.30†	+0.200	5.34
-do- Accum	127.30	130.30†	+0.300	5.34
Income	262.70	279.40†	+2.700	3.22
-do- Accum	459.60	488.80†	+4.300	3.22
Inc Portfolio #	140.00	148.20	+1.000	4.40
-do- Accum #	162.10	171.70	+1.200	4.40
Intl Opps	668.40	710.60	+1.700	0.71
-do- Accum	908.60	969.20	+2.200	0.71
Japan	141.20	150.60	- 0.40	
-do- Accum	144.90	154.60	- 0.50	
New Europe	315.50	336.50†	+2.000	0.83
-do- Accum	333.10	355.20†	+2.100	0.83
Pacific	76.93	82.06	+0.240	0.26
-do- Accum	82.80	88.57	+0.260	0.26
Recovery	585.00	624.00	+4.400	1.43
-do- Accum	783.00	835.20	+5.900	1.43
UK Smaller Cos	71.37	76.13†	+0.130	1.54
-do- Accum	83.77	89.35†	+0.150	1.54
Managed Gth	151.50	158.50	+1.200	1.80
Managed Inc	147.40	153.00	+1.080	3.61
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	86.37	90.44	+ 0.27	2.08
-do- Accum	97.79	102.40	+ 0.30	2.08
British Tst	149.50	156.50†	- 0.40	1.61
-do- Accum	185.62	194.30	- 0.50	1.61
Corp Bond Inc	107.10	111.02†		6.61
-do- Accum	118.50	122.80†		6.61
Extra High Inc #	91.82	96.15	+ 0.15	5.58
-do- Accum #	211.50	221.50	+ 0.30	5.59
FTSE 100 Acc	104.90	108.80		1.57
FTSE 100 Dist	95.60	100.10		1.57
Gilt & Fxd Int	60.06	62.50†	- 0.07	5.88
-do- Accum	206.80	215.00†	- 0.20	5.88
High Yield #	316.80	331.70	+ 0.90	4.63
-do- Accum #	932.90	976.90	+ 2.60	4.63
Households Names	133.70	134.40†	+ 0.10	1.18
Income #	442.70	463.60†	+ 1.70	3.55
-do- Accum #	1093	1145†	+ 4.00	3.55
Money Market UT	48.46	49.49†	+ 0.01	6.49
-do- Accum	86.82	88.67†	+ 0.02	6.49
Monthly Income	127.00	133.00†	+ 0.20	3.71
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	193.50	205.80	- 0.50	1.61
European Growth	202.20	214.40	+ 2.50	
Gilt & Fixed	117.10	124.28	- 0.10	5.66
Income	149.70	159.30	+ 0.30	3.35
Japan Growth	35.29	37.41	- 0.61	
Managed	107.00	113.60		2.10
Money Market	103.20	109.40		4.99
North American	149.90	158.90	- 0.60	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	175.30	186.50	- 0.50	1.61
European Growth	189.70	201.00	+ 2.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	108.60	115.40	- 0.10	5.78
Income	146.50	155.90	+ 0.30	3.25
Japan Growth	35.33	37.45	- 0.60	
Managed	102.70	108.70		2.10
Money Market	95.11	100.80		4.99
North American	134.20	142.20	- 0.60	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	173.70	184.80	- 0.50	1.61
European Growth	185.50	196.66	+ 2.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	97.24	103.19	- 0.10	5.75
Income	142.40	151.50	+ 0.30	3.25

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	38.14	38.31	+ 0.02	
Managed	105.20	112.00		2.10
Money Market	85.95	90.80	+ 0.02	5.08
North American	158.00	169.00	- 0.80	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enqs/Ret: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	540.20	583.50†	+ 1.20	..
European Gth Inc	719.40	782.80	- 5.40	..
-do- Accum	727.20	771.10	- 5.50	..
Intl Gwth	289.50	305.20†	- 0.40	..
UK Equity Inc	301.10	318.50	+ 0.30	3.18
Do. Accum	426.10	452.20	+ 0.40	3.18
UK Growth Inc	178.90	189.10†	+ 0.10	2.53
-do- Accum	185.10	197.50†	+ 0.10	2.53
UK Inst Trckr Inc	289.80	307.40†	+ 0.40	2.27
-do- Accum	344.50	365.90†	+ 0.40	2.27
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	406.80	429.60	+ 0.10	0.82
Japan Tracker	49.89	52.50	- 0.40	..
Asian Tracker	149.50	158.10	+ 0.30	0.48
Mngd Ptflio Inc	235.10	249.60	+ 0.30	1.43
Mngd Ptflio Acc	262.50	279.10	+ 0.40	1.43
Deposit Inc	100.28	100.29†	+ 0.01	6.66
Europe	286.20	304.80†	+ 0.50	..
Generis	241.30	261.50	+ 0.60	2.19
High Income	22.45	23.69†	- 0.02	10.00
Japan Growth	77.22	81.57†	- 0.82	...
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 033				
American Growth	84.00	87.20	+ 1.37	..
Equity Income #	142.60	148.40	+ 0.70	3.37
European	115.60	118.00	- 0.10	..
Smaller Cos	101.00	105.30	+ 0.30	1.46
W'wide Eqty	93.81	97.53†	+ 0.49	..
Global Bond	41.51	41.98†	+ 0.02	4.59
UK Growth	147.00	151.20	+ 0.30	1.07
Pacific Growth	75.67	77.69	+ 0.03	1.84
Japan Growth	84.09	88.50	- 0.86	..
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A ‡	51.29	..	+ 0.15	3.02
Portfolio Inc A ‡	51.39	..	+ 0.15	3.03
Gilt Acc A ‡	50.17	..	+ 0.08	6.20
Gilt Inc A ‡	50.17	..	+ 0.08	6.20
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 267 010				
Avon Equity	211.45	224.98	+ 0.86	1.68
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 628 4200				
America Dist	165.60	175.40	- 0.40	0.01
European Dist	214.10	225.40	- 0.10	0.18
Far East Dist	135.30	142.40†	+ 0.20	0.05
Global Care Dist	112.40	118.30	- 0.30	0.68
Overs Dist	1214.80	1282.90†	+ 1.40	0.18
-do- Accum	1585.70	1669.20	+ 1.60	0.18
UK Dist	594.00	625.30	+ 0.50	1.26
-do- Accum	1236.30	1301.40	+ 1.10	1.26
UK Extra Inc Dist	121.80	128.20†	+ 0.40	2.41
Wwide Dist	134.50	141.60	+ 0.20	0.11
Wwide Inc Dist	106.80	112.40	- 0.10	1.83
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 0870 601 9147 Admin Enq: 0870 603 9100				
Europe Inc	112.21	118.43†	+ 0.04	0.20
Fund of Funds Inc	83.88	88.53	- 0.02	0.93
North America Inc	89.12	94.06	- 0.05	...
UK Equity Gth Inc	97.59	102.83	- 0.11	1.11
-do- Accum	108.19	114.18	- 0.12	1.11
UK General Inc	90.37	95.38	+ 0.30	1.14
-do- Accum	102.55	108.23	+ 0.34	1.14
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	50.10	52.78	- 0.03	6.36
UK Income Inc	89.57	94.53†	+ 0.22	1.94
UK Smlr Cos Inc	146.84	154.98	+ 0.25	1.06
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0800 440 960				
American	73.13	77.79	+ 0.30	...
-do- Accum	73.68	78.39	+ 0.39	...
Bond	135.95	144.69	- 0.42	4.64
Cash Income	50.90	50.90	+ 0.01	6.66
-do- Accum	73.82	73.82	+ 0.01	6.66
Challenger	96.28	102.28	+ 0.12	1.69
Distributor	143.80	152.97†	+ 0.05	1.79
European	88.79	94.45	+ 0.28	..
Foundation	145.47	154.75	+ 3.15	0.86
General Inc	287.88	306.25	+ 3.88	1.05
General Acc	294.82	313.74	+ 3.97	1.05
Growth Inc	188.62	200.67	+ 3.75	0.79
Growth Acc	197.44	210.04	+ 3.91	0.79
Higher Income Inc	47.28	50.29†	+ 0.17	3.70
-do- Accum	61.01	64.90†	+ 0.22	3.70
High Yield Bond #	98.80	104.22†	+ 0.17	7.25
Income	389.26	414.08	+ 1.00	2.34
Intwld	183.77	191.42		0.92
Intl Gwth	47.94	50.98	+ 0.06	...
Japan	25.03	26.62	- 0.08	...
Oriental Inc	120.82	128.63	- 1.22	0.65
-do- Accum	125.37	133.37	- 1.25	0.65
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	81.31	84.98	+ 0.54	4.86
UK Growth	145.49	153.90†		2.34
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	171.76	180.80†	+ 0.74	1.80
UK Equity	231.83	244.03†	+ 0.71	2.16
UK Equity Income #	206.67	217.44	+ 1.97	4.41
UK Smaller Cos	177.39	186.69	+ 0.62	1.31
UK Equity Growth	199.26	209.75	+ 1.98	0.76
UK Index Trckg	235.14	248.17†	- 0.15	1.89
Intl Index Trckg	209.86	221.49†	- 0.08	0.54
International	335.55	353.21	+ 0.43	0.78
European	368.98	385.90†	+ 0.36	0.01
Pan European	236.85	249.49	+ 0.07	0.73
Nth American	337.16	354.91	+ 0.29	0.02
N Amer Smlr Cos	370.96	390.50	+ 2.49	..
Japanese	71.47	75.23	- 0.21	0.11
Pacific	171.98	180.10	- 0.22	1.48
South East Asian	184.80	194.53	- 0.34	1.48
Sterling Bond	110.29	116.20	+ 0.06	5.86
Intl Bond	122.84	129.41†	- 0.31	4.55
Gilt & Convertible	119.78	126.08	- 0.09	5.63
Property	95.19	100.20	+ 0.09	5.03
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	495.90	530.60	+ 3.80	...
-do- Accum	527.10	563.30	+ 4.30	...
Japan Inc	78.70	83.43	- 0.33	...
Nth American Inc	218.50	231.60	- 1.20	...
Worldwide Inc	231.20	245.30	- 0.40	0.04
HK & China Inc	154.80	165.80	+ 1.40	1.98
Swiss Equities Inc	136.50	145.30	- 0.30	...
Wwide Bond Inc	67.91	71.69†		5.43
Emging Asia Inc	127.50	136.10	- 0.10	1.88
-do- Accum	128.50	136.20	- 0.10	1.88
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.22	50.23†	+ 0.01	6.80
Thailand Inc	50.91	55.13	- 0.18	1.45
New Zealand Inc	80.41	86.67		1.94
1st Mngd PEP Inc	94.18	100.60†	- 0.40	0.37
Latin Am Cap Inc	80.11	85.62	+ 1.08	0.70
UK All Sh Mkr Inc	97.32	98.70†	+ 0.09	1.72
Broker Unit Trusts				
Wey Global Blue	95.97	102.10	+ 0.80	0.79
Global Portfolio	81.68	87.36		
Wey Global Gth	72.97	77.63	+ 0.86	0.20
Marsh Global Gth	71.01	75.30	+ 0.10	0.69
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	151.80	162.40	+ 0.38	0.69
Temple Equity Inc	58.08	62.29	- 0.01	1.25
Hadley Growth	174.70	185.80	- 2.10	0.36
Intl Growth Inc	73.83	78.96		
IPS Portfolio Inc	117.30	124.10	+ 0.60	...
Rushmore Strat Gth	77.19	82.58†		0.17
UPC Growth	77.67	83.07†	+ 0.27	1.32
Chanfield Port of Fds	57.24	60.73	+ 0.23	0.25
Pyg Intl Equity	90.54	96.83	+ 1.09	0.08
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 826 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	393.60	418.70	+ 2.70	1.14
-do- Accum	887.30	943.90	+ 6.10	1.14
Growth	256.80	269.20	+ 1.70	1.50
Income	373.00	396.70	+ 2.90	2.86
Intl Equity	335.50	356.90	+ 1.20	0.23
-do- Accum	378.80	400.80	+ 1.30	0.23
Equity Income #	99.25	105.50	+ 0.70	4.16
Equity Growth	133.60	142.10	+ 0.80	0.97
New Europe	145.70	154.90	+ 0.30	...
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 600				
Intl Growth Inc	863.77	921.62	+ 0.69	0.28
-do- Accum	872.71	931.15	+ 0.67	0.28
Income #	648.15	692.16	- 1.24	3.13
Wwide Recovery	562.52	600.46	- 0.81	0.28
Amer Growth Inc	396.45	423.10†	+ 1.34	0.01
-do- Accum	396.45	423.10	+ 1.34	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	330.49	353.47	+ 0.70	0.16
Far Ests Gwth Inc	245.80	262.99	- 0.22	1.33
-do- Accum	250.84	268.26	- 0.24	1.33
Euro Gwth Inc	277.73	295.66	- 0.80	0.01
-do- Accum	278.70	298.91	- 0.80	0.01
UK Growth Inc	157.08	168.24†	- 0.12	2.10
-do- Accum	176.58	188.53	- 0.14	2.10
High Income #	167.89	179.25	- 0.27	3.47
Jap Gwth Inc	147.20	157.23†	- 0.34	0.23
-do- Accum	147.20	157.23	- 0.34	0.23
PEP Bond	66.78	68.77	+ 0.15	8.72
PEP Growth	189.25	201.85	- 0.14	0.50
Asian Sm Mkts Inc	92.56	99.02	- 0.24	0.14
-do- Accum	93.42	99.92	- 0.23	0.14
Amer Smlr Co Inc	260.11	278.80	+ 1.27	0.01
-do- Accum	260.11	278.80	+ 1.27	0.01
Global Bond	53.67	56.93†	- 0.24	4.52
UK Smaller Cos Inc	126.38	135.17	+ 0.46	1.94
-do- Accum	136.88	146.40	+ 0.52	1.94
Lat Am Gwth Inc	39.38	41.98	+ 0.42	0.08
-do- Accum	40.01	42.66	+ 0.43	0.08
World Inc PEP #	52.86	56.94†	- 0.03	3.58
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 281 3827				
American	177.72	189.08	- 0.24	...
European	133.84	142.17†	+ 1.24	...
Global	58.50	62.00	- 0.08	...
Pacific	43.08	45.66	+ 0.01	...
UK Inc & Grth	105.15	112.83†	+ 0.45	1.06
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 0800				
Asia	43.43	46.18	- 0.05	
Emerg Mkts	45.26	48.02†	+ 0.53	0.33
Euro Fund	57.21	60.70	+ 0.53	...
Fund of Funds	234.07	248.39	+ 0.41	0.82
High Income #	64.31	67.60†	+ 0.18	5.17
Performance	57.55	61.06	+ 0.13	...
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 400 832				
Special Sits	247.70	264.90	+ 2.10	0.36
Dividend	142.50	152.40†	+ 0.80	3.28
Intl Gth & Inc	304.80	324.40	- 1.50	0.55
UK & Gen	67.17	71.84†	+ 0.47	0.32
Fund of Funds	87.59	93.65	+ 0.39	...
Bal Growth	79.65	82.50†	+ 0.25	0.08
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	218.79	229.55†	+ 0.60	2.39
For Prolific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT				
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 406000 Client Enq: 0345 555500				
Managed Tst	53.72	55.67†	+ 0.09	1.80
Cash Haven Inc	101.14	101.84†	+ 0.02	6.27
Cash Haven Acc	126.45	127.07	+ 0.02	6.27
Dist Trust Inc	126.02	132.69†	+ 0.23	4.38
Dist Trust Acc	153.28	158.85	+ 0.29	4.38
Global Growth	130.71	138.05†	+ 0.26	1.37
Equity Inc	113.32	120.81†	+ 0.29	3.67
Equity	1205.76	1282.72	+ 4.54	1.47
European	396.19	418.58	+ 0.34	0.22
High Income	115.70	121.65	- 0.13	4.18
Intl Gth	258.96	273.35†	+ 0.22	0.65
Intl Sm Co	107.13	113.87	+ 0.07	0.06
Japanese	132.42	137.22†	- 1.84	...
Mgd Income Tst #	51.69	53.42	+ 0.13	7.06
Nth Amer	339.48	351.12	- 1.75	0.68
Pacific Mkts	87.78	90.16†	+ 0.27	1.67
Premier Inc	50.99	53.67†	+ 0.01	5.71
Sm Cos	125.37	133.37	+ 0.53	1.96
Spec Sits	164.93	175.46	+ 0.77	1.61
UK Growth	203.26	216.23†	+ 0.75	1.49
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	108.83	114.44†	+ 0.56	2.12
Investment Trust	141.06	148.31†		0.24
UK Smaller Cos	129.19	135.85	+ 0.30	1.98
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	483.80	513.20	+ 4.80	1.74
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	38.06	40.81	- 0.33	...
Cash	49.49	50.50		5.41
Emerging Mkts	47.56	49.89	+ 0.44	...
Europe	88.70	93.54	+ 1.01	...
Global Fixed Int #	49.90	52.11	- 0.04	4.46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan	31.24	32.62	+ 0.28	..
North America	92.30	96.38	- 0.11	..
UK	88.82	93.91	+ 0.52	..
UK Equity Inc #	82.20	85.84	+ 0.44	3.05
UK Fixed Int #	55.32	57.77	+ 0.08	6.21
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	64.97	67.32	+ 0.35	...
Pep Inc Port #	65.14	68.53	+ 0.29	2.72
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	41.96	...	+ 0.12	...
Asia Pacific ‡	37.77	...	+ 0.25	0.62
Europe ‡	59.96	...	+ 0.20	...
Japan ‡	42.48	...	- 0.14	...
Latin America ‡	40.92	...	+ 0.94	...
North America ‡	53.75	...	+ 0.47	...
UK Eq Income ‡	57.38	...	+ 0.40	3.49
UK Major Cos ‡	57.43	...	+ 0.58	0.80
UK Smaller Cos ‡	68.83	...	+ 0.28	0.04
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6163 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1551.00	1641.00	- 2.00	...
Equity Income #	156.30	165.30	- 0.10	3.62
European	250.50	265.00	- 0.30	...
High Inc Bond	51.87	51.95	+ 0.03	5.70
Portfolio	146.70	155.20	...	0.95
UK Index Trckg	278.60	294.80	+ 0.40	2.54
UK Leading Cos	118.80	125.50†		1.58
UK Smaller Cos	148.70	157.30	- 0.30	1.11
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	221.20	245.80	- 0.10	2.68
Intl Cautious	70.87	75.34†	+ 0.02	4.07
Intl Growth	97.51	103.10†		...
Intl Spec	87.84	93.38	+ 0.04	...
Managed	238.50	254.30†	+ 0.30	0.77
Pacific Basin	64.36	68.78	- 0.06	0.56
United States	183.30	189.20	+ 0.80	0.27
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	210.98	225.57		...
Far East	134.80	142.40†		...
North America	273.90	292.90	+ 1.40	...
Wwide Bond	85.65	89.49	- 0.06	4.48
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	271.90	288.50†	- 0.50	0.94
European Growth	230.00	244.20†	- 3.40	0.01
Far East Growth	140.60	149.60	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan Growth	92.55	98.45	[illegible]	[illegible]
Special Sits	269.70	286.90	[illegible]	1.20
UK Growth	142.70	151.90†	+ 1.30	2.21
Intl Growth	352.50	375.00	+ 3.20	1.95
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0171 307 6500				
Far East Inc	124.70	132.60	- 0.50	0.89
Gr Euro Prog Inc	598.00	632.80	- 1.70	0.98
-do- Accum	945.20	1000.20	- 2.70	0.86
Growth Inc	197.90	209.30†	- 0.20	0.82
-do- Accum	203.60	215.50†	- 0.20	0.82
International Inc	627.40	658.10	- 0.30	1.14
-do- Accum	731.50	774.20	- 0.40	1.14
NS Amer & Intl Inc	548.70	580.60	- 1.00	1.92
UK Gen Prog Inc	347.90	368.90	- 1.10	1.32
-do- Accum	409.30	433.10	- 1.10	1.32
UK High Inc Inc	198.80	212.40†	- 0.40	3.11
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	64.82	68.70		0.75
European Gwth	131.45	139.82	- 0.27	1.08
Global Bd	59.59	62.31†	+ 0.01	5.80
Japan	43.38	45.74		
UK Gwth	118.44	126.00	+ 1.01	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smlr Cos	190.90	203.10†	+ 1.10	..
Cash	145.00	145.00	+ 0.10	6.86
China Dragon	63.64	67.76	+ 0.22	0.37
Commodity	115.20	122.60†	+ 1.20	...
Emerging Mkts	39.14	41.64	+ 0.45	0.46
European Gwth	344.90	366.90	+ 5.20	...
Euro Smlr Cos	88.08	93.72	+ 2.83	...
Extra Income #	72.16	74.70†	+ 0.49	4.88
Far Eastern	77.45	82.39	+ 0.13	...
FE Sm Cos	37.95	40.37	+ 0.04	0.85
Financial Secs	403.70	421.00	+ 4.09	0.73
Gold & Exploration	40.11	42.67†	+ 0.27	...
Growth	609.70	612.80	+ 6.50	1.27
High Income	50.64	53.84†	+ 0.17	7.10
Intl Bond	157.30	166.20†		5.07
ITU	287.40	305.20	+ 2.30	0.50
Japan Growth	123.60	131.40	- 0.40	...
Japan Smaller	104.50	111.20	+ 0.10	...
Korea	21.95	23.36	- 0.53	...
Latin America	49.80	52.98	+ 1.49	0.07
Medallion	80.14	80.54	+ 0.02	0.77
Premier Eq Gwth	238.80	254.30	+ 2.30	0.84
Premier Eq Inc #	507.10	539.50	+ 5.30	3.34
SE Asia	34.25	36.44	+ 0.05	0.63
Southern Africa	51.34	54.62	+ 0.51	1.00
UK & O'seas	255.10	271.40	+ 3.40	0.82
UK Eqty Gth	118.40	126.08	+ 1.10	0.93
UK Eqty Inc #	360.60	383.50	+ 0.40	3.39
UK Gwth & Inc #	424.40	451.50†	+ 3.00	2.27
UK Sm Cos	71.89	76.48†	+ 0.32	0.84
US Growth	311.50	331.40†	+ 8.20	...
New Europe ‡	38.34	...	+ 1.04	...
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	473.26	498.91	- 4.78	0.17
-do- Accum	526.98	555.56	- 5.32	0.17
European Gwth	128.25	135.00	- 0.59	0.16
Euro Smlr Cos	139.26	147.08	+ 0.15	0.02
-do- Accum	141.27	150.11	+ 0.14	0.02
Far Eastern Gth	80.20	85.21†	+ 0.01	0.24
-do- Accum	82.03	86.16†	+ 0.01	0.24
Gilt & Fixed Int #	58.59	59.94†	- 0.04	7.09
Global Bond #	45.29	46.80	...	5.97
-do- Accum #	58.28	60.24	...	5.97
Global Emerg Mkts	49.16	52.43	+ 0.45	0.01
-do- Accum	49.20	52.47	+ 0.44	0.01
Income #	555.47	592.50†	+ 1.54	4.00
-do- Accum #	1989.43	2122.08†	+ 5.51	4.00
Japan Smlr Cos	231.07	246.40	- 0.09	...
-do- Accum	231.47	246.80	- 0.09	...
Japan Enterprise	51.30	54.50	- 0.22	...
Pacific Gwth	109.52	116.82†	- 0.37	0.39
-do- Accum	114.89	122.39†	- 0.39	0.39
Portfolio	117.92	124.44†	+ 0.23	1.59
-do- Accum	132.84	141.27†	+ 0.26	1.59
Seed	18.20	19.44	+ 0.26	0.72
-do- Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Strategic Inc	122.40	130.27	+ 0.48	1.86
Strategic Acc	128.38	134.59†	+ 0.49	1.86
Tokyo	107.71	114.89†	- 0.74	...
-do- Accum	108.80	116.09†	- 0.75	...
UK Enterprise	442.55	473.61	+ 3.31	1.75
-do- Accum	565.74	603.45	+ 4.22	1.75
UK Equity	413.59	441.16	+ 2.84	1.84
-do- Accum	860.76	918.13	+ 5.80	1.84
UK Smaller Cos	428.75	457.83	- 0.07	0.68
-do- Accum	516.04	548.37	- 0.08	0.68
US Smlr Cos	351.92	374.75	- 2.49	...
-do- Accum	351.92	374.75	- 2.49	...
Institutional Funds				
European	414.90	429.79†	- 0.33	0.80
-do- Accum	475.84	491.99†	- 0.38	0.80
Euro Smlr Cos	44.33	45.59	- 0.07	0.83
-do- Accum	48.65	50.36	- 0.07	0.83
Global Equity Inc	111.99	116.16	+ 0.34	0.71
Japan Smlr Cos	22.68	23.63	- 0.08	0.24
-do- Accum	22.95	23.90	- 0.06	0.24
Mngd Balanced	268.62	278.77†	+ 1.19	2.33
-do- Accum	328.22	341.89†	+ 1.45	2.33
Overseas Equity	240.49	250.53	- 0.12	0.97
-do- Accum	248.65	259.01	- 0.13	0.97
Overs Smlr Cos	135.62	140.56†	...	0.77
-do- Accum	144.31	150.22†	...	0.77
Pacific	182.92	191.56	- 0.47	2.24
-do- Accum	208.21	216.87	- 0.54	2.24
Recovery	2985.35	3109.74†	+ 0.28	2.52
-do- Accum	3410.10	3552.17†	+ 0.32	2.52
UK Index	257.65	268.39†	- 0.95	2.47
-do- Accum	344.60	358.96†	- 1.26	2.47
UK Small Cos	168.58	175.60†	+ 0.28	2.44
-do- Accum	192.83	200.87†	+ 0.32	2.44
US Smllr Cos	88.08	89.41	- 0.48	0.35
-do- Accum	88.90	92.34	- 0.49	0.35
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	83.94	88.77	+ 0.65	2.84
Equity Trust	110.37	116.72	+ 1.26	2.33
Equity Strategy	112.39	118.85	+ 1.06	1.59
European Opps	150.98	159.66	+ 3.15	0.14
UK Smaller Cos	88.45	94.60	+ 0.45	1.42
[illegible] Inc	99.15	101.73	+ 0.08	7.83
Japanese	51.53	54.40	- 0.43	...
Asia Pacific	88.17	93.24	- 0.11	0.49
American	191.39	202.40	+ 0.95	0.83
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	35.82	35.82	+ 0.01	5.89
UK Eq Gwth Inc	83.91	88.39	+ 0.18	2.27
-do- Accum	116.68	124.18	+ 0.24	2.27
Intl Income	369.54	393.24	- 0.54	1.31
-do- Accum	662.14	704.80	- 0.97	1.31
European	148.66	159.11	- 0.33	0.86
Japan	49.83	52.81	- 0.33	...
American	144.34	152.57	- 0.02	0.68
Far East Tst	66.10	70.51	+ 0.37	2.20
Ethical Inc	49.59	53.04	- 0.06	1.68
-do- Accum	58.40	62.46	- 0.06	1.68
UK Blue Chip Inc	55.24	58.95†	- 0.04	2.25
-do- Accum	70.12	74.75†	- 0.05	2.25
UK Equity Inc	58.06	62.09	+ 0.09	3.24
-do- Accum	89.83	95.60	+ 0.14	3.24
UK Global Inc	63.97	68.12†	- 0.10	1.52
-do- Accum	71.47	76.10†	- 0.11	1.52
Wwide Tact	108.20	115.23	- 0.23	0.99
Europe Tactical	108.72	115.96	- 0.50	0.55
Technology	200.50	212.82†	- 1.25	0.48
Dist Inc	30.66	32.75	+ 0.09	5.23
-do- Accum	33.24	35.27	+ 0.09	5.23
UK Ext Inc Inc	26.25	27.72†	+ 0.08	7.02
-do- Accum	28.35	30.59†	+ 0.08	7.02
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	704.80	749.80	+ 0.10	1.62
American	478.00	508.10	- 0.80	0.22
Pacific	317.40	338.50	- 0.70	0.31
European	889.70	930.70	- 2.08	0.49
Worldwide	105.20	112.20	+ 0.40	0.16
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	456.90	486.60	+ 0.20	1.86
-do- Accum	618.80	656.30	+ 0.20	1.86
UK Sr Co Eq Inc	296.20	315.20	+ 1.40	1.81
-do- Accum	371.00	394.60	+ 1.40	1.81
Select Oppty Inc	112.80	120.40†	+ 0.10	1.47
-do- Accum	117.50	125.00†	- 0.50	3.30
European Inc	602.80	638.60	- 0.30	0.54
-do- Accum	699.10	742.00	- 0.30	0.54
Far Eastern Inc	128.50	136.80	- 1.60	1.23
-do- Accum	130.40	138.80	- 1.60	1.23
Japanese Inc	46.17	49.11	- 0.14	..
Nth American Inc	485.80	516.80	+ 1.30	0.03
-do- Accum	520.20	525.30	+ 1.30	0.03
Intl Growth Inc	255.90	272.10	- 0.40	0.39
Wwide Venture Inc	113.20	120.20†	+ 0.20	0.35
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	608.80	641.70	+ 8.70	1.81
-do- Accum	959.20	1004.00	+10.60	1.81
UK High Inc #	294.00	310.60	+ 2.80	2.76
-do- Accum #	470.00	496.50	+ 4.70	2.76
Europe Inc	677.00	716.20	+14.60	0.38
Nth Amer Inc	429.40	453.60	- 4.00	
Global Inc	313.30	331.60	+ 2.80	0.28
Global Acc	340.10	359.30	+ 3.00	0.28
UK Spec Sits Inc	168.10	177.80	+ 1.80	1.57
South East Asia	147.40	155.70	+ 1.40	0.86
Cash Trust Inc	101.20	101.30		6.60
UK Smlr Cos Inc	140.50	148.40	+ 0.60	1.85
-do- Accum	151.20	159.60	+ 0.70	1.85
Intl Bond Inc	88.85	93.31	+ 0.40	3.30
International Grwt	95.16	100.60	+ 0.60	...
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	224.50	238.40†	+ 1.30	0.15
Nth American	183.40	193.10†	- 0.60	...
Intl Bond & Cash	137.90	145.10	+ 0.40	6.51
Pooled Pension	307.80	330.80	+ 2.30	1.92
Smaller Cos	147.00	154.70	+ 0.80	0.88
UK General #	228.70	240.70	+ 2.40	2.78
Far Eastern	85.71	90.17	- 1.23	0.85
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Continental	128.00	136.10	+ 0.70	0.80
Global Gwth	100.30	105.90	+ 0.80	1.00
Inv Tst Port	69.85	74.30	+ 0.42	1.80
Managed	1669.33	1708.06	+ 6.02	2.10

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pfd Inc #	115.80	122.38	+ 0.30	[illegible]
Smaller Cos	209.50	220.85	+ 2.00	[illegible]
Ireland Stl Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	118.90	...	+ 0.27	4.18
Sterling Reserve ‡	102.84	...	+ 0.08	7.00
Corporate Inc ‡	107.25	...	+ 0.45	5.81
Intl Ptn ‡	82.80	...	+ 0.23	
Aztec ‡	80.93	...	+ 1.20	...
Amer Gth Fund ‡	136.17	...	+ 0.70	
European ‡	228.55	...	- 0.82	
Global Bond ‡	91.53	...	+ 0.15	6.35
Special ‡	43.84	...	+ 0.08	
UK Growth ‡	139.46	...	+ 0.11	2.80
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	184.43	...	+ 0.45	3.80
Investment Trust ‡	134.35	...	+ 0.47	2.50
The Football Fd ‡	83.53	...	+ 0.34	
[illegible] ‡	129.78	...	+ 0.11	
[illegible] Reserve ‡	100.87	...	[illegible]	5.72
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	808.30	842.60	+ 2.70	..
Capital	188.50	199.80†	+ 1.20	0.90
Cash	102.40	102.40	+ 0.04	6.86
European	219.90	230.80	+ 2.40	...
Far Eastern	139.80	147.30	+ 0.70	...
Growth	226.80	239.50	+ 2.80	0.50
Income #	181.60	192.10†	+ 1.50	4.82
Magnum	193.70	204.90	+ 1.40	0.80
Smlr Secs	737.50	780.40	+ 2.80	
Thoroughbred	226.80	240.80	+ 1.80	0.95
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 093				
Capital Prince	63.89	68.18	+ 0.30	7.00
Ethical	97.52	104.00		0.82
European Growth	115.70	122.80	- 0.20	...
Income #	78.04	83.46	+ 0.22	3.91
Intl Growth	131.00	139.80	...	0.12
Managed	120.18	127.20	...	4.17
UK Growth	95.21	101.80	+ 0.18	1.98
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	35.91	37.20†	+ 0.58	0.93
Global Advtg Acc	52.74	[illegible]	+ 0.80	0.93
Income Advtg Inc	46.32	49.57†	+ 0.40	2.85
Income Advtg Acc	60.16	63.47	+ 0.50	2.85
UK Equity Gth Acc	140.60	149.18	+ 0.90	0.76
Premier Inc Inc	52.82	55.71†	+ 0.10	6.01
Premier Inc Acc	62.66	66.86	+ 0.16	6.01
Managed Acc	77.80	82.47	+ 0.87	1.80
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	58.83	61.82	+ 0.59	3.36
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	80.19	85.91	+ 0.70	3.35
UK Smlr Cos Acc	63.62	67.44	+ 0.30	0.36
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	112.79	120.90	+ 7.10	1.20
UK Equity Gen Inc	80.01	85.02	+ 0.80	1.20
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	35.08	37.11	+ 0.10	6.08
Ocean Lrg Co Acc	411.60	446.80	+ 3.40	1.78
Nth American Acc	79.81	84.50	...	
Pacific Basin	33.59	35.80		1.56
European Acc	78.13	83.02	+ 1.30	...
Japan Acc	22.49	23.87	+ 0.50	...
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZD)	5.538	5.875†	...	1.75
US Eqts (US$)	4.780	5.045		0.62
Far East Eqts (yen)	231.40	245.60		
FT Europe	218.70	231.70	...	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	4.123	4.369	...	...
FT Japan (yen)	131.80	139.38	...	
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.259	2.389	...	0.87
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	676.10	713.30	+ 5.90	...
British #	1223.20	1293.50	+ 0.50	2.02
Emging Mkts	167.49	177.98	+ 1.20	0.82
Euro Gwth Inc	135.30	143.80	- 0.30	..
Euro Small Co	68.71	73.08	- 0.20	..
Japan	90.21	95.76	- 0.20	..
Asia Pacific	347.49	370.08	- 1.00	1.62
-do- Accum	378.08	402.67	- 1.00	1.62
Inv Trust Acc	363.70	385.50	+ 1.70	0.93
Mngd Equity	258.30	273.30	+ 1.20	1.79
Mngd Cash	96.22	98.22	+ 0.01	6.65
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Asia Pacific	16.30	17.24†	- 0.11	1.31
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	104.53	111.20†	+ 0.14	6.05
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	118.81	126.35	+ 0.15	6.05
European	73.77	78.48	- 0.24	0.22
Japan	27.84	29.62†	- 0.08	0.01
Managed Assets	181.70	194.33	- 0.20	1.72
North American	64.01	68.10	+ 0.06	0.22
Smlr Co's Inc	44.40	47.23	+ 0.28	1.36
Smlr Co's Acc	49.67	52.84	+ 0.32	1.36
UK Growth Inc	90.17	95.93	+ 0.16	1.49
UK Growth Acc	104.88	111.57	+ 0.38	1.49
Extra Income #	62.48	65.82	- 0.06	3.71
Worldwide Gwth	51.33	54.60	- 0.12	0.27
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 0117 988 9000				
Discretionary	68.92	71.19	+ 0.06	
UK Income Inc	85.32	90.76	+ 0.28	2.39
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	41.59	43.95	+ 0.03	6.69
Mngd High Yld Inc	123.10	130.80	- 0.19	3.27
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	118.20	123.40	+ 0.47	2.38
UK Smaller Cos	47.54	50.57	+ 0.24	1.81
Pacific Gth Port	37.07	39.44	+ 0.17	0.06
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	425.13	449.88	- 1.65	1.00
-do- Accum	463.26	495.92	- 1.82	1.00
Brit Growth	174.82	185.00	- 0.39	1.23
-do- Accum	221.59	234.38	- 0.49	1.23
European	175.49	185.71	- 0.60	
-do- Accum	187.45	198.36	- 0.64	
Extra Income #	282.51	300.53†	+ 0.08	3.55
-do- Accum #	565.65	598.78†	+ 0.06	3.55
Smaller Cos	103.35	109.35†	+ 0.51	0.81
-do- Accum	119.58	128.54†	+ 0.58	0.81
General	500.30	529.42†	- 0.10	1.42
-do- Accum	1093.35	1156.98†	- 0.22	1.42
Premier Income	56.08	58.42†	+ 0.11	5.36
-do- Accum	151.40	157.71†	+ 0.30	5.36
Income #	532.54	564.60	+ 0.08	3.24
-do- Accum #	1282.22	1367.43	+ 0.07	3.24
Pacific	286.78	297.13	+ 0.10	0.67
-do- Accum	295.04	312.21	+ 0.10	0.67
International	790.85	836.87	- 1.14	0.22
-do- Accum	1044.79	1105.60	- 1.50	0.22
Nat Resources	128.30	135.77	- 0.12	0.66
Skill Opps	177.59	187.80	- 0.30	0.93
-do- Accum	286.58	298.38	- 0.40	0.93
Environmental Inc	120.46	127.41†	- 0.25	0.54
Selector	98.48	105.27	- 0.08	1.21
-do- Accum	117.03	124.67	- 0.08	1.21
High Income #	94.84	100.36	+ 0.02	3.38
-do- Accum #	136.45	144.39	+ 0.03	3.38
Intl Income	65.80	69.63	- 0.04	3.93
-do- Accum	91.23	96.54	- 0.04	3.93
Selector Income	85.45	90.42	+ 0.02	3.57
-do- Accum	112.56	119.11	+ 0.02	3.57
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 687 1818				
British	574.95	605.21†	+ 0.48	1.81
European	112.59	117.60	- 0.14	0.93
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	281.95	298.56	+ 1.56	2.83
Glob Growth Acc	333.46	352.97	+ 1.84	2.83
Glob Balanced Inc	224.61	237.59	+ 0.82	4.04
Glob Balncd Acc	261.12	267.48	+ 1.03	4.04
Value Tst Inc	175.27	185.47	+ 0.52	2.12
Value Tst Acc	199.78	211.40	+ 0.59	2.12
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 628 8882				
Capital	126.80	135.00		0.52
International	85.25	90.66		
For Thornton see Dresdner RCM				
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv: 0800 083000 Inter Serv: 0800 068400				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Income	53.62	56.14†	...	3.65
Caut Mgd Gth Acc	53.59	56.05	+ 0.08	4.14
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	53.19	55.80	+ 0.05	2.63
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	52.72	56.20	+ 0.05	0.89
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	54.81	...	+ 0.13	6.42
UK Equity Inc #	59.71	...	- 0.05	3.56
UK Growth ‡	58.47	...	- 0.03	1.34
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	54.11	...	+ 0.05	2.46
UK Money Secs ‡	58.66	...	+ 0.08	7.13
UK Monthly Inc #	54.97	...	- 0.04	3.65
UK Select Gwth ‡	58.52	...	- 0.04	1.51
UK Smaller Cos ‡	56.38	...	+ 0.04	0.91
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	58.22	...	+ 0.19	0.10
European Growth ‡	58.58	...	+ 0.19	0.06
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	55.78	...	- 0.09	...
Global Bond ‡	52.15	...	- 0.12	6.91
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	38.17	...	- 0.14	...
Specialist				
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	54.89	...	+ 0.23	0.04
Amer Sml Cos Gth ‡	56.94	...	+ 0.23	
Asia Growth ‡	36.27	...	- 0.07	0.19
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	58.86	...		0.05
Emg Mkt Bd Fd ‡	54.37	...	+ 0.22	6.26
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	59.11	...	+ 0.18	...
Gth Sel Gth Acc ‡	50.91	...	+ 0.04	0.11
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	56.43	...	- 0.04	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	60.95	...	+ 0.08	
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (£500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	59.74	...	- 0.05	4.20
UK Growth ‡	58.59	...	- 0.04	1.89
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	54.19	...	+ 0.05	2.59
UK Inst Gwth ‡	58.74	...	+ 0.05	1.70
UK Gvnm Engt ‡	58.32	...	+ 0.01	1.03
UK Select Gwth ‡	58.61	...	- 0.04	2.07
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	56.49	...	+ 0.04	1.44
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	53.35	...	+ 0.19	0.80
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	58.73	...	+ 0.19	0.58
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	35.25	...	- 0.09	
Global Bond ‡	52.18	...	- 0.12	7.41
Japan Growth Acc ‡	38.27	...	- 0.15	...
Specialist				
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	55.14	...	+ 0.28	0.54
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	57.01	...	+ 0.23	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	36.36	...	- 0.08	0.60
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	56.88	...		0.56
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	59.19	...	+ 0.16	...
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	56.47	...	- 0.05	...
Latin Amer Gth ‡	59.86	...	+ 0.08	...
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UK Eq Inc Acc #	462.01	491.60†	+ 0.53	3.46
UK Equity Gwth	499.45	531.33†	+ 0.42	1.43
European	257.62	274.06	- 1.32	0.35
Nth American	121.06	128.79	+ 0.32	0.65
Far Eastern	50.69	54.56	- 0.48	0.59
Money	76.20	76.32†	+ 0.01	6.80
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Index Linked Gilt	83.17	88.75†	+ 0.04	1.28
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Pens Growth	141.97	141.98	...	
Pens Inc Protc	115.70	115.70	...	
UK Index Tracking ⊕	101.76	101.76	- 0.14	1.78
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Australasian Gold	14.38	15.34†	...	
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Short Dtd Gilt	132.30	133.60	...	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8213	0.8298	+0.0001	...
Gilt Income	[illegible]	54.60	+ 0.06	6.20
Gilt Growth	88.19	89.68	+ 0.14	
Sterling Bond	52.87	53.29†	+ 0.16	5.90
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
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Intl Mgd	70.51	74.91	- 0.13	1.58
UK Stockmarket	140.38	149.20	- 0.50	1.82
Corporate Bd Inc	50.85	53.58	- 0.10	5.02
Do Accum	54.50	58.02	- 0.10	5.02

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; ⊕ Exit Charge.



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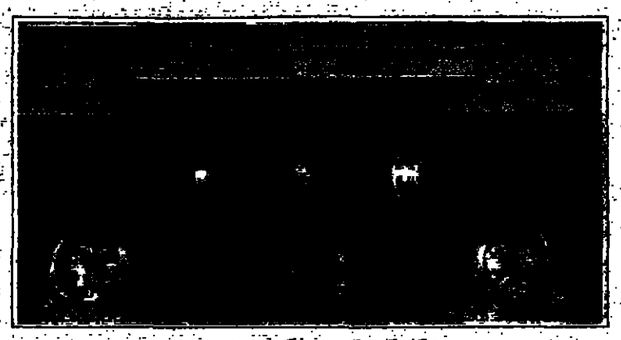
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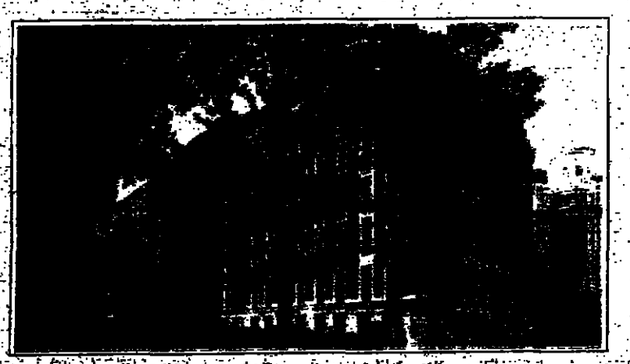
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Play host to a shooting party

Film-makers and advertisers are always searching for homes with star quality, says Amanda Loose

Star-struck homeowners will be pleased that the British film industry is on the up, thanks in part to huge injections of government and lottery cash and tax breaks outlined in the last Budget. As a result, the demand for properties to play starring roles is booming. So much so that several upmarket estate agents are acting as talent scouts.

Filmed entertainment has become one of the fastest-growing industries in the world, says Katrina Fletcher at Strutt & Parker's Film Location Agency in Newbury, Berkshire, and Britain is now getting a piece of the action.

"The Government's decision in the 1997 Budget to give the film industry a financial boost, together with a massive injection of lottery funding, has breathed new life into the industry. People who would previously have gone to Ireland to take advantage of tax breaks are coming back to Britain."

Strutt & Parker has recently provided locations for *The Woman in White* and *Tom Jones* from its database of properties. Ms Fletcher says: "We deal with all the paperwork for property owners, negotiating fees with the production company, anything from £800 to more than £3,000 per day, producing a contract and making sure all insurance is in place."

Location Seekers, in association with Hamptons International, offers a similar service and is looking for locations for a Carlton Television production of *Cider with Rosie* and the BBC's *Vanity Fair*, as well as for advertisement and magazine shoots, which also can be lucrative, says the company's Penny Salter. "Our clients tend to think of BBC costume dramas when we talk about locations, but the advertising clients, fashion shoots and television programmes tend to be the bread and butter of the industry. Indeed, advertising clients often have more substantial budgets to ensure that they get exactly what they are looking for in that short space of time.

"Our criteria are that properties should be a good example of their type, or have character and individuality, or display such features as follies or spiral staircases for photographic shoots."

Ms Fletcher says would-be locations must have large rooms and space outside for parking. And she says: "No one is ever prepared for the shock of seeing 50 people turn up. It can be tremendous fun, rubbing shoulders with the stars, but it can sometimes be frightening for novices. They have rented out their home and it is no longer theirs to command."

Christy Kilgour at Knight Frank, which is selling Cricket St Thomas, the setting for *To The Manor Born*, is often approached by location managers keen to use stately homes and estates that the firm has sold or managed, and helps property owners to negotiate suitable fees and contracts.

"We explain to our clients that there can be downsides and disruptions. Using a property for a photo shoot is easy, maybe taking only a couple of hours, but if your house is going to be the main set for a costume drama, filming could go on for months. Owners should check that the necessary insurance is in place, and access and entry provisions, particularly in larger houses. Film-makers may also want to use items such as paintings already in the house, or animals in the parkland, so additional fees need to be in place."

Ms Salter advises homeowners to take professional advice and arm themselves with a watertight contract and a relaxed attitude. "Common sense is the best approach. As a rule of thumb, if you would remove something from a room for a teenager's party, remove it for filming."

Film-makers will also pay for redecoration if rooms have been altered during filming, something one wouldn't expect from teenage partygoers.

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Philippa Spencer-Smith acted as an extra when scenes for *The Woman in White* were filmed at her Jacobean manor house

STARRING ROLE FOR AN OLD COUNTRY MANOR HOUSE

Philippa Spencer-Smith landed a role as an extra when the BBC last year filmed scenes for *The Woman in White* at her home, a Jacobean manor house near Hitchin in Hertfordshire. An old kitchen was turned into Mrs Catherick's parlour, and the courtyard was used to film a scene where the three main characters supposedly arrive at a lodge. Mrs Spencer-Smith says: "I registered with Strutt & Parker a year ago and I was quite keen on the idea; I would like to do it again. There was not much disruption over the three days. They wanted an extra to walk about a bit, so I did it."

Chickens come home to ruse

Adam Barnard reveals the tricks some landowners use to bypass green belt laws

A NEW threat to the green belt is emerging in the unlikely form of pigs and poultry. Landowners are taking advantage of a weakness in planning policy.

The owner of an eight-acre property in the Home Counties submitted an application for the use of her land. She wanted to farm free-range chickens, she said, and would it be all right if her temporary agricultural dwelling was made permanent?

The application seemed innocent enough, and was granted. Second-hand chicken sheds having been installed, a house was built. The property was sold. And the chickens? They never appeared.

The story is one of many and Michael Fletcher, a land agent with Lane Fox and an agricultural consultant for local authorities in South Wales and the Thames Valley, has seen it all before. "I have been analysing applications for the past six years," he says. "Some have been extraordinary. Only about 40 per cent are genuine."



Mr Fletcher is responsible for assessing planning applications and deciding whether a case for a dwelling is reasonable. Under agricultural occupancy restriction laws, any proposed house on greenfield land must be directly related to the needs of the owner.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced last week that 60 per cent of new homes must be built on brownfield land — a site that has been used before — in the next ten years, and that builders must prove there is not a suitable brownfield site before building on greenfield land.

Mr Fletcher cites a flaw in the Department of the Environment's planning policy guidance document that provides the framework for building in the countryside: it allows people to claim "agricultural need" when applying for planning permission. "You can't blame people for trying. The loophole exists. Keeping free-range chickens doesn't take much time. It is the easiest way to a country home."

Mr Fletcher says some people will try anything to put a house on protected land. He adds: "Local authorities need to be vigilant. I've seen proposals for mushroom farms and carp farms in some pretty unlikely locations."

As for the supposed free-range farmer, once she had quit the scene, the next owner applied for a large agricultural building, which he claimed was for intensive pig-farming. Mr Fletcher discovered plans for a storage business.

Most manipulators are caught, but sometimes it is impossible to see a bogus application before it is too late. A four-bedroom house in the grounds of a farm in the Vale of Glamorgan was built after the owner persuaded the local council that he wanted to set up a goat dairy. The house is on the market for £295,000, the owner now lives in America, and there is not a goat to be found roaming the property's 44 acres.

Some applications are not so much insincere as unfeasible. One landowner in Barry, South Wales, wanted to set up an ostrich-rearing unit. Permission was denied.

An application for a house in South Glamorgan was made on the ground that the owner wanted to grow bonsai trees. It, too, was rejected.

Another landowner not far from London had a genuine interest in farming but, as Mr Fletcher puts it: "Had he kept that many pigs, the whole land would have been a sty. People should not go into farming on the chance they might be able to build a house in the green belt."

Mr Fletcher believes that the "loophole" in department policy needs to be re-directed towards existing farms, or else be excluded from green belt areas. He says: "As it is, it promotes a smallholdings culture on the green belt. It needs to be very seriously rethought."

A spokesman for the Environment Department says: "It is a matter for the local planning authorities to take enforcement action if planning permission has been breached. This could result in the demolition of the building."

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WC1 3 bed flat, 1st & 2nd floor, garden sq. 95ft, mod kitch & bath. 120yr Lease. £225,000. Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466

WEST END 2 bed penthouse, sunny terr. £295,000 & 2 bed, 2 recep 1st flr flat, high ceilings £275,000. Tel 0171 244 7901.

WC1 2 bed flat, 7th flr, lift, ex loc. auth. gch, mod kit £84,950. Bunbury & Ball 0171 833 4466

WESTMINSTER SW1 Brand new 2 bed, 2 bath lux riverside apt, pair parking, health club £329,000 0171 221 9044.

W1 Mansfield St A superb, high ceiling 2 bed apt (1,196 sqft) + 2 LB Baths in Rio Forrer blk. £375K. Portman Heritage 0171 487 4994.

W1 Mansfield St An elegant, high ceiling 2nd flr apt with lge dbl recep, 2/3 beds, 2 baths in Rio Forrer blk. £545,000. Portman Heritage 0171 487 4994.

RICKENHALL MANSIONS W1 A well-appointed apartment in this sought after Mansion Block, 2 beds. Internal viewing strongly recommended £385,000 L/H. Tel: 0171 486 5911. (Baker London Estates).

COVENT GARDEN Huge new 3 bed penthouse, 1000sq ft terr. £1,300,000 Tel:0171 244 7901

TEDDINGTON RIVERSIDE Prestige balconied 2 bed apartments with views over River and lock, private gym, concierge etc. £199,950 to £220,000 L/H Milestone 0181 977 1166.

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A two bedroom apartment in this converted riverside warehouse. Car parking space, porterage and views across River Thames to Canary Wharf.
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QUEEN OF DENMARK COURT, ROTHERHITHE SE16
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EAGLE WHARF WEST, E14
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PRICE: £113,950 - Leasehold

Chestertons Residential: 0171 357 7999

LONDON PROPERTY

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ATTRACTIVE 2 bd upper mais in bungalow nd, just vo North of Put Bdwy. 2 dble beds, bath, kit 15'9 recept with balc £185,000 Venetons 0171 736 9822

HORNBY ROAD, SW6. Freehold. An exceptionally decorated 2 bed house presented close to Parsons Green, two receps, rear patio.£290,000.0171 610 6446

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CHELSEA 3 storey house in private to complete, porter, 3 bed/2 bath, office, recep, dining, kitchen, gge, garden, vacant. £595,000. Tel: 0171 225 2630.

CH ELSEA Grnd flr apt fr Vic. FB block, 4 bed/2 bath, recep, dkr/ 1 pg, 999 Lease fm 1/1/98. £425,000. 0171 225 2630.

CHELSEA SW3 Spac 3 bed flat 2 bath 24hr Port UNC Park Shares £95 £425k CDL 0171 603 4444

CHELSEA SW3 Spac 3 bed 2bath flat Porter Park L/H £290,000 CDL 0171 603 4444

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HOLLAND PARK Immac 2/3 bed mansion flat £370,000 L/H. CDL 0171 603 4444

KENSINGTON W8 Spacious 1603 sq ft period flat in good location, dining, living, kit/break, 3 bed, 2 bath. £439,950 Lse about 48 yrs (extendible). 0171 373 0033

NOTTING HILL W11 Outstanding 1 bed period apt, 40 ft. private patio, comm gdn. £207,500 0171 221 9044.

SLOANE AVE Mansions quiet 6th floor studio, bathr, tiny kitchen £107K. 0171 371 6721 Agts.

SLOAN Elegant 1 bedroom OR bright ceiling 20' recep, with gallery, kit/dbl bedroom/bathroom £255,000 LH. LOPS 0171 370 7997

TURNERVILLE ROAD, W14. Freehold. 3 dbl bed hse with separate separate, dbl reception, study, a/racing garden. Rdns to Tube.£280,000.0171 610 6446

SW7 Unmod mixed grnd flr, high recep, mod new 1,000+ sq.ft. 82 yrs. £365,000. 0468 028320.

W8 Large 4 bedroom, 2 reception rooms, 3 bathrooms, modern, fab short/long let. £1,800 per week onwards. Call Benedetta 0171 7950925 or 0956609745

W14 Ba - available - unmodernised 5 storey House. £660,000 0171 602 5646

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

KNIGHTSBRIDGE CHT 3 bed apt (1 s/c) silver rm, lge recep, kit, porter. CHO. Lse to 2062. £450,000. Bear Capp 0171 730 9288 BEA DYE 0171 235 8088.

ALBERT COURT SW7 Spacious apartment on ground floor of this prestigious block with views to the Royal Albert Hall. 3 Beds (2 en-suite), 2 recepts, unfurnished, portierage. Minor refurbishment required £1,100,000 L/H Tel: 0171 486 9911. (Baker London Estates).

MAYFAIR

DOWN ST Refurbished flat with high ceilings, 2 recepts, 2 beds, 2 baths, long lease. £295,000 Frank Lane Agts 0171 629 0763.

HAY HILL A large one bed 5th flr flat in need of updating in fine period mansion block off Berkeley Sq. Lift & porter. Lse 77 yrs. £250,000. Goldsmith & Co 0171 491 4101.

MAYFAIR Property on 4 floors 1st & 2nd offices, 3rd & 4th residential. 53 yr lease. Peppercorn ground rent. Approximate internal area 4,500 sq ft. Very good cond. Offers in the region of £1.4m. 0171 399 0800

MAYFAIR Apartments and houses in all price ranges. Horne & Sons 0171 499 9266

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RICHMOND & KINGSTON

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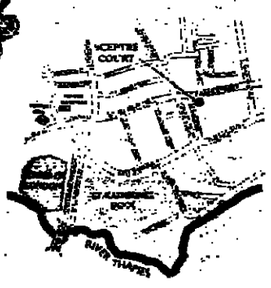
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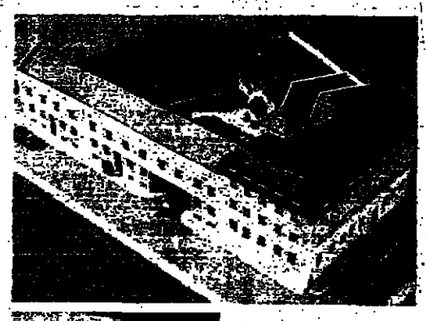
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CHELSEA SW3 2 bed, fully furn flat for; pkg £330 pw 01181 346 6148/0973 150800c

CITY Bed new luxe lge 1 & 2 bd, FF pkg port nr subs £260-£425 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

CITY Brand new 1 bed flat, newly furn. FF k & b, porter, pkg, nr subs, £260pw. 0171 396 5100

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DOCKLANDS. Prof shared hse 2 bd/bth, flat, str vws, pkg, nr DLR. £600 pcm + bills. 0171 7212499 0958882729 E.

FARRINGDON Bnd new luxe lge 2 & 3 bd, 2 bth FF pkg port gym nr tube & rail £375 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

FULHAM Spacious 3rd floor 3 bed house newly-done long let £425 pw. 0181 749 3406

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SW. mNR Luxe two bed flat to let long term at £745pw. Pershing also nr. 01444 246826

MAIDA VALE Luxe lge 2 bd, 2 bth 2nd flat, gge & gdn £295 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

HOLLAND PARK Grnd flr, d'locks Sq, 1 bed, lge overlooking £290 per week. 0976 394062.

INVESTORS - County Hall, Westminster - London Dolphin Hotel Manor, Portsmouth - Albert Dockhands, one site one sum. Luxury income Freehold agent. Contact Alwyn Evans 0181 673 8400. Residential 0171 633 0436

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ISLINGTON 4 bed, 2 bath barbershaped house, full fitted kit, patio garden & Garage £500 pw. Hanley Gorham 0171 354 2283

ISLINGTON N1. Huge Loft Apprt. Recep 45' X 30' Wooden floors. 1 bdrm £260 pw 0171 226 4221

KENSINGTON W14 Luxe 3 bed, 2 bth flat; recessed block £462 pw. Knowsley 0171 602 2271

KENSINGTON Period, 2 bed flat, fff k & b, fully furn, balc nr tube £280 pw. 0171 396 5100

KENSINGTON Superb 2 bed flats main. Rec, new kit, 2 baths short let £450 pw 0171 736 1146

KINGS RD SW3 Cosy 1 bed fully furn flat inc pkg £260 pw 0181 346 6148/0973 150800c

KNIGHTSBRIDGE Studio in Luxe flat refl all transport. Use of kitchen, mist £130 pw. Suit Prof person or couple. Ind commital. 0171 235 7994

LANCASTER GATE W2. 2 dbl bed 2 bath 1st flr apart with lift, approx 1sst house, 22ft max, 14ft high ceilings, balcony & terrace, 1 min Hyde Park, HC & Co. 0171 625 6811

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LITTLE VENICE/Maida Vale. The Specialists. Brand new luxe apartments. Winkworth 0171 289 1692

LITTLE VENICE W9, newly refurb 1 bed flat, cls kitchen. £260pw. 0181 455 0001/0802 776050.

MAIDA VALE W9. Selection of newly refurbished two & three bed apartments in modern mansion block set with gardens and 24 hour security. From £325 pw. 0171 289 0104

MAIDA VALE W9 Bright & Furnished dble flat in well maintained mans blk. Pt gard equip. £375 pw. 0171 289 0104

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MAYFAIR/ST.JAMES Luxe 1-5 beds Draughtsbest lets, fr £200pw. 0171 495 5807

MAYFAIR W1 Luxe 2 bed, 2 bath 2nd flr flat, short or long term. £1,250 pw. 0171 235 4407

NEW YORK Lawyer requires 2 yr let in 1/2 bed apartment with lift in facilities Uptown (Central) must be in newly Central London. 0171 590 1010

NOTTING HILL GATE Charming one bed flat on third floor of well maintained period block, up to 6 months £600 pw 0171 614 7209

NW3 Luxe 3 dble bed, 3 bth apt, priv 40'gdn, FF kit, CHP. Porter. £625 pw. 0171 284 1066 (A)

NW8 Luxe 2 dble bed 2nd flr apt, F/F kit, 2 bath. Nr tube Porter £375 pw. 0171 284 1066 (A)

NW8 MEB La Garden flat, newly refurb, 2 bed, rec, F/F kit/diner. £220pw. 0171 603 8823

OLD BROMPTON RD New 3 bed mais to let in secure. Lge kit, 2 bths, gge, £700pw. 0171 396 5100

PIMLICO SW1 3 bedrm/2 bathrm house, patio, CH, terrace, good decor, quiet area. £625pw. 01297 35794/ 0171 620 8349.

PIMLICO SW1 Lge mff mais 2 recep, 2 beds, 2 bths. Dishwsr etc £700 pw. 0171 586 9942.

PUTNEY 5 luxe 1+2 bed flats, 1st class. CH/ fir pkg, unexpired mortgages. £250-360pw. 0181 9959604 or 0370 369492.

REGENCY MEWS SW10 Superb 2 dble bd gff. mais, 2 bth (1 ensuite), mth ins, lge rec, kit/ dble spc flr £550 pw. Avail now Abercorn Rec 0171 286 6618

RESIDENCE SQ. 1+2 bed, 2 bath, balcony, terr, newly fitt conv. flats/suites. £260-360pw. No agents. 0171 229 8808.

REGENTS PARK NW1. Close Great Portland St. Tube. Lux furnished studio. K and B. Porter. £210 pw. Tel: 0956 396992

SE1/BANKSIDE Brand new 2 bed, 2 bath flat fully furn, pkg £360 pw. 0171 396 5100

SOUTH BANK SE1 2 Bed lux on 3 floors int pkg. FU, Rural location £600 pw. 0171 226 4221

SOUTH BANK New luxe lge 1 & 2 bd FF pkg nr tube £250-£350 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

ST JAMES'S, SW1. Luxurious flats to let near tube from £325 pw. 0171 409 7303

ST JOHNS WOOD NW8. Lux two dble bed, 2 bath flat in smart blk block in great condition. £400 pw. 0171 289 0104

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ST KATH'S DOCK 2 mins. Luxe lge bed new 1 & 2 bd FF/DF pkg port nr tube £280-£425 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

SURREY SQUARE W2 Spacious Ground/Lower, 2nd bath, 2 recep flats, patios, close to park. £450 pw. 0171 371 1707

SW3 2 bed, 2 bath apartment in restored mansion building opposite Harrods. Unfurn £480 pw. KCG 0171 225 3468

SW1 2 bed apt in restored development, parking, Fr turn £550 pw. KCG 0171 225 3468

SW7 2 bed apt, 2 baths, frnt kit, Prince's Gate. From £600 pw KCG 0171 225 3468

SW8 2 dble bed, 2 bth penthse over looking park. VG £625 pw. 0171 284 1066 (A)

SW10 Prestige 2 bed period flat, newly fur & furn, patio, mews rules, £375pw. 0171 396 5100

SW10 Lge newly furn 1 bed flat, smart & contemporary style. £450 pw. KCG 0171 225 3468

SW17 Luxury high ceiling flat, bal, recep, cable, 1 bedroom, fitted kit, bthrm, PS. £260pw, or £385pw. pw. T: 0171 373 4994

SW11 Lux lge bed new 2 bd, 2 bth FF pkg port o/l river £500 pw. City lets 0171 488 1458

SW17 Newly refurb'd bright 2 dbl bed apt, period conv. Unfurn £400 pw. KCG 0171 225 3468

SW6 Newly refurb'd bright furnished 2 bed cottage, Balham Office £495 pw. KCG 0171 225 3468

SW1 PIMLICO 2 bed, recep, kit, bath, court yard, newly converted £360 pw. Also large 2 bed, recep, kit, bath, utility room £395 pw. 0171 834 1022

SW10 Exquisite Gdns. Spacious 2 bed RGF conversion. Shared use of lge gdn, recep with high ceilings & ornate fireplace. Ft furn £475 pw KCG 0171 225 3468

SW7 Unique architect designed artist's studio duplex apt. Wood flr, high ceiling, galleried bedrm. Throughout. Furn £650 pw. KCG 0171 225 3468

TOWER BRIDGE (SE) G/F. three bdr new unfurn 4th fl 2 bed 2 bath big rec luxe pkg lift porter £385pw. 0171 407 0405

W8/2 Period 1 bed flat fit kitchen & bath Pr phone/cable/fully furn £280 pw. 0171 396 5100

W. KEN Bright garden flat, fully furn, 1 bedroom, CH. £230pw. 0171 385 6846. No agents.

WANTED Good quality flats & houses for overseas tenants 0181 346 6148/0973 150800c

WEST END W1 Newly dec flat in contemp style designed by award winning architect. Off Regent St, unfurnished, 2 beds, 2 baths (1 en), sitting rm, well equipped kitchen. £575pw. 0171 6029227 (9 to 5.30)

W14 Lge farm rm, en-suite bath rm, cp blr. 2ft pvt. location. £130pw bnd. 0171 7802342 or 0171 7265132.

W8 5 mins tube, furn-2 in bed flat, wfmachine, C-TV, CH, Pvt gdn, pkng, for immediate rental to sole occupant. £110pw. 0171 6229517.

W8 Selection of elegant 2 & 3 bed apts in white stucco period hse nr Ken Gdns. Furn £500-£575 pw. KCG 0171 225 3468

W1/2/8/SW1/3/5/7/10/NW8Luxe 1-5 bed flats, short/long. Lets from £200pw. 0171 486 5507

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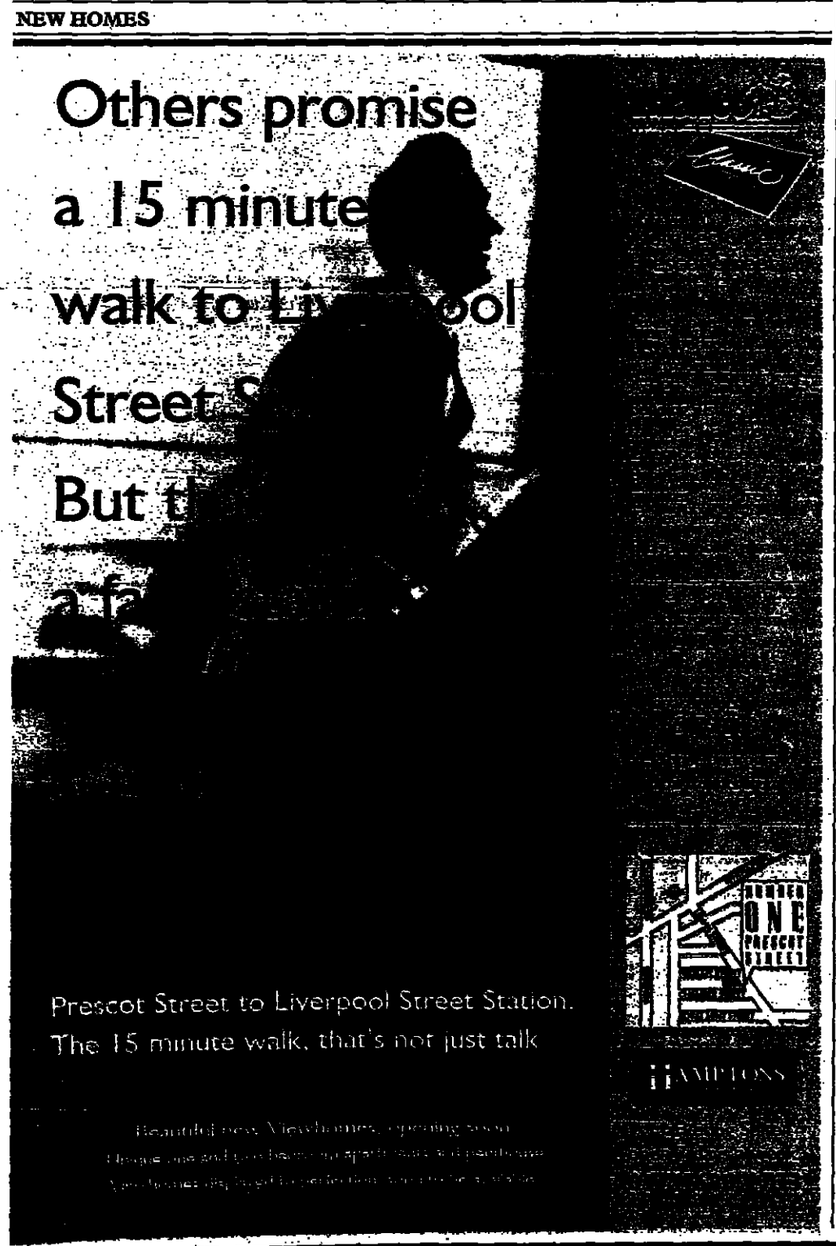
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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

CLUB TROPICANA: The famous Cuban cabaret descends on London to recreate the sizzling sensuality of 1930s Havana. Thirty leggy dancers decked out in flamboyantly daring costumes and backed by a 20-strong band offer a two-hour show of Hispanic hedonism. **Albert Hall,** Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 11.45pm

ENGLISH JOURNEYS: The New Directions season continues. A disillusioned couple set off in their car to find a new direction to their lives and give a lift to a teenager. First play by Steve Waters, directed by Gemma Bodinetz. **Hampstead Theatre,** Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Perfs March 6, 7, 16-18, 8pm; mats March 7 and 18, 3.30pm

IN A LITTLE WORLD OF OUR OWN: Gary Mitchell's play, set among Loyalist paramilitaries, opens this year's Four Corners season. The cast includes Helen McCrory, Lorcan Cranitch and Stuart Graham. **Donmar** Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Thur-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm

LONDON PHILHARMONIC: The evening's concert opens with a performance of Negro spirituals and traditional gospel songs by the London Adventist Choir. This is followed by Sir Roger Norrington conducting the LPO and Choir in a performance of A Child of Our Time, the first performance of Tippett's masterpiece since the composer's death. With soloists Michele Crider and Anthony Rolfe Johnson. **Festival Hall,** South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. The series conducted by Mstislav Rostropovich aimed at exploring Shostakovich's symphonies reaches the harrowing Symphony No 7, Leningrad, tonight. This is preceded by incidental music from King Lear. **Barbican,** Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm

ELSEWHERE

BATH: A short stint here for **Stoppard.** Mark Ravenhill's powerful drama about a distressed generation, noted by economic and sexual abuse. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out of Joint. **Theatre Royal,** Sawclose (01225 448844). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm; Fri, 6pm and 9pm; Sat, 4pm and 8pm.



Roger Norrington leads the LPO, Festival Hall

BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle continues its Towards the Millennium celebrations with the second of two concerts featuring music from the 1970s. The all-British programme includes works by Knussen, Birtwistle and Tippett. **Symphony Hall,** Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm

HUDDERSFIELD: Junk, Melvin Burgess's Carnegie Medal-winning book for children, is a long way from Enid Blyton. Two 14-year-old runaways become prostitutes to fund their heroin addiction. John Retallack directs his adaptation for the Oxford Stage Co. **Lawrence Batley,** Queen's Square (01484 430528). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm

HULL: Opera North's winter tour stops here with three performances of the company's lively production of Sweeney Todd — Stephen Sondheim's musical chiller. ON's head of music Jim Holmes conducts, with Steven Page in the role of the demon barber. Runs with Mozart's The Magic Flute. **New Theatre,** Kingston Square (01482 226655). Sweeney: Tonight, tomorrow and Sat, 7.15pm. Flute: Fri, 7.15pm

LONDON GALLERIES

Annely Juda Fine Art: Anthony Caro — New Sculptures (0171-629 7578) . . . **Barbican:** Shaker: The Art of Craftmanship (0171-638 8891) . . . **Dulwich:** Italy in the Age of Turner (0181-693 5254) . . . **Hayward:** Francis Bacon: The Human Body (0171-928 3144) . . . **Nalikowski:** Working after the Masters: Anthony Caro (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait:** High Society: Edwardian Photographs (0171-306 0055) . . . **Serpentine:** Alex Katz (0171-724 8299) . . . **Serpentine:** Piero Manzoni (0171-402 6075) . . . **Tate:** Pierre Bonnard (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◺ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **ART.** Roger Allam, Mark Ford and Jack Dee in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting. **Wyndham's,** Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

◺ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical, Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the Rves of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington. **Dominion,** Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **CAUSE CELEBRE:** Rattigan's last play, a battle of moral attitudes between Alma Rattenbury and a woman in the jury trying her for the murder of her elderly husband. Neil Bartlett directs this angry assessment of 1930s hypocrisy. **Lyric,** King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until April 4.

◺ **A DELICATE BALANCE:** Eileen Atkins hauntingly chilling in welcome revival of Albee's play about marriage, parenthood and neighbourliness. Maggie Smith plays the drunk sister. Anthony Page directs. **Theatre Royal,** Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **EPITAPH FOR THE WHALES:** The celebrated Japanese director Kazuyoshi Kushido stages Yoji Sakate's intriguing play about six whaling brothers fearing the anger of the whale-god. With Lilo Baur and Clive Mendus. **Gate Theatre,** Prince Albert Pub, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. (No perf March 13.) Until March 21.

☐ **HAMLET:** Alex Jennings plays the Prince in Matthew Warchus's production up from Stratford. With Debbie Crotty as Ophelia, Paul Freeman as Claudius. **Barbican,** Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm; mat tomorrow and Sat, 2pm. In rep.

☐ **HENRY VIII.** Paul Jesson, Jane Lapotaire, Ian Hogg in lengish but strongly played and pageant-like staging of Shakespeare's last play. **Young Vic,** 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm; mat tomorrow and Sat, 2pm. In rep

☐ **IN FIVE YEARS' TIME:** Rare chance to see Lorca's allegorical play about love, fear and procrastination. Cleverly staged by Eurocircles. **Southwark Playhouse,** 62 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-620 3494). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until March 7.

☐ **THE MAGISTRATE.** Ian Richardson plays the much harassed hero in a fitfully funny revival of Pinero's farce. Cast includes Graham Crowden, Frank Middlemass, John Padden. **Savoy,** The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **RICHARD III:** Eddie Marsan plays the villainous hero in Guy Retallack's production, set in the East End's gangsterland of the 1960s. **Pleasance Theatre,** 40 North Rd, N7 (0171-609 1800). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thur, 2.30pm and Sun, 5pm.

◺ **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE.** Alan Ayckbourn directs Jane Asher in his new comedy about a surprising love and its unsurprising consequences on lovers. Unforgettably ingenious set. **Gielgud,** Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thur and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **THINK NO EVIL OF US:** After a year touring his autobiographical impingement on the life of Kenneth Williams, David Benson gives it an airing in the West End. **Vaudeville Theatre,** The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat 8pm; mats Thur and Sat, 4pm. Until March 14.

LONG RUNNERS

◺ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . . . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged):** Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . . ◺ **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . . ◺ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) . . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . . ☐ **Smokey Joe's Cafe:** Prince of Wales (0171-839 5987) . . .

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

LA MAMAN ET LA PUTAIN (18): A young French man (Jean-Pierre Léaud) agonises between different women. Revival of Jean Eustache's masterly, intimate epic. With Bernadette Lafont and Francoise Lebrun. **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

THE UGLY (18): Psychiatrist tries to prove the sanity of a serial killer. Lively, gaudily styled horror film from New Zealand. Scott Reynolds directs. Paolo Rotondo and Rebecca Hobbs. **ABC Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561). **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323). **Metro** (0171-437 0757)

CURRENT

◆ **BOOGIE NIGHTS** (18): Dynamic epic about the porn movie industry, from a young director, Paul Thomas Anderson. With Burt Reynolds, Mark Wahlberg and Julianne Moore. **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255); **Kensington** (0181-315 4214); **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220); **Plaza** (0990 888990); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990); **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

DAS BOOT: THE DIRECTOR'S CUT (15): Tense, claustrophobic German U-boat epic, released with extra footage and a much improved soundtrack. With Jurgen Prochnow. **Plaza** (0990 888990)

◆ **THE FULL MONTY** (15): Unemployed steelworkers strip for cash. Bouncy British comedy with Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy. **ABC Baker Street** (0171-935 9772); **Odeon Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215); **Plaza** (0990 888990); **Virgin, Trocadero** (0181-970 6015)

◆ **IN & OUT** (12): Can Kevin Kline's English teacher possibly be gay? Appealing mainstream comedy, directed by Frank Oz. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255); **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4218); **Plaza** (0990 888990); **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990); **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Trocadero** (0181-970 6015)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): Smashing drama about corruption in LA in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito. **ABC Panton St** (0171-930 0631); **Gate** (0171-727 4043); **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4229); **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Virgin Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

THE WINTER GUEST (15): Dutiful re-creation of Sherman Macdonald's play about cross-crossing lives in a Scottish coastal town. Alan Rickman directs, Phyllida Law and Emma Thompson enliven the cast. **Odeon Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215)

NEW RELEASES

◆ **AMISTAD** (15): African slaves mutiny onboard ship in 1839 and are tried for murder. Self-important account of an historical event, with splendid patches. Steven Spielberg directs Anthony Hopkins, Morgan Freeman, Nigel Hawthorne, and many others. **ABCs: Baker St** (0171-935 9772); **Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148); **Barbican** (0171-638 8891); **Clapham PH** (0171-498 3323); **Empire** (0990 888990); **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005); **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705); **Odeon Camden Town** (0181-315 4255); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990); **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Trocadero** (0181-970 6015)

◆ **DESPERATE MEASURES** (15): Imprisoned killer runs amok when taken to hospital to donate his bone marrow. Ludicrous thriller, with Michael Keaton and Andy Garcia. Director, Barbet Schroder. **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216); **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220); **Virgin Trocadero** (0181-970 6015); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE EDGE** (15): Can billionaire Anthony Hopkins survive the Alaskan wilderness with Alec Baldwin's fashion photographer? Moderate action fun, written by David Mamet. Director, Lee Tamahori. **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214); **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216); **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220); **West End** (0181-315 4221); **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990); **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)



DONALD COOPER

The unspeakable in pursuit of the unedifying: the women onstage go mad for the pelvic thrusting, but are drowned out by those in the audience

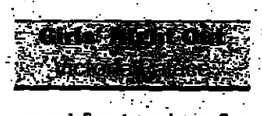
The full mountebank

Dave Simpson's comedy, so-called, has apparently been touring the land with great success since August 1996. And now here it is, ensconced in the ample acreage of London's Victoria Palace. The question for us amateur shrinks and sociologists is this: who on earth has been finding it such fun?

Three interlocking categories of person come to mind. One of these is very amused by the curious appliances — plastic fists with index fingers that light up blue or orange when you press a button on the pole below — on sale in the stalls. Another enjoys seeing a lot of rippling male skin and sinew. And a third goes for stories that run the gamut from the goofy to the gormless.

Don't think me either lacking in gallantry, or the proud owner of a tie with little pigs embossed on it, if I say that this person is probably female. No sooner had the house lights gone down than screeches filled the stalls, and as soon as the stage lights went up on a chap practising striptease in his mirror the screeches grew shriller and shriller. That noise was not coming from me or, as far as I could see, from any of the other Addisons, Hazlitts and Agates grimly scattered up and down the aisles of the Victoria Palace.

The aspiring stripper is Damien Child's Tony, a dim, pleasant fellow who plans to earn some bread at a club that night. What he doesn't know is that downstairs in the living-room (cream-coloured fake-leather bar and coral phone) his mum, his sexually repressed fiancée and two first cousins are planning a hen party in the same place.



The inevitable happens. After Tony and the other members of the Feast of Flesh team have practised their monk routine (cowls, black jockstraps, phallic candles), he finds himself confronted not only with his old lady but with a girlfriend who, high on Babycham, takes a cheeky peek at his private parts.

That little climax brings the first-act curtain down and the people selling electric fingers back into the stalls. But what was there left for Simpson to do in the second half? As it turned out, three things. One was to cart on the lads dressed as highwaymen, waiters or James Bond clones, divest them of their togs, and get them to do a lot of pelvic bumping and buttocky grinding. Another was to keep up the dopey banter about matters sexual. The third was to develop the plot and, the accents being north-country, maybe give us the sort of rough but appealing folk-comedy in which Brighouse, Houghton and the other Manchester dramatists specialised.

No such luck. Tony and his fiancée sort out their difficulties by gleefully achieving orgasm in the dressing-room lavatory. The most macho of the strippers discovers that his best friend is gay. Tony's pregnant cousin, who is getting married in the morning, is assured by another stripper that he is not the father of her child. Mum confides that she is having an affair with her brother-in-law, withdraws the confession, and settles back to watch her son gyrating in his G-string.

I must admit to blinking when Diana Davies, who plays Mum in a loud magenta jacket and preposterous frizzy wig, cheerfully admitted to yelling "get 'em off" and "let's see your willy" at her son. If Jocasta ever said that to Oedipus, at least she did so in private. But, really, the evening is too witless to be objectionable. If I were you, and I suspect I am, I would stay at home with the video of *The Full Monty*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Blubber mouths



The only two animals that commit suicide are whales and humans, says Ikkaku, the young man at the heart of Yoji Sakate's contemporary Japanese play. Ikkaku is recuperating from a mysterious accident and about to marry his delicious fiancée, Chisa, but he is suffering an identity crisis of whale-like proportions.

You would never guess to look at Julian Louis's sensitive youth, all tousled hair, slightly pinched face and anguished eyes, that he has an irresistible urge to beach himself. At one moment he is the infatuated schoolboy; the next he is quoting large chunks of whaling lore.

If Ikkaku's yen to be Moby Dick underpins Sakate's play, it is the show-stealing eccentricity of Ikkaku's aunt Tatsue that keeps the play afloat. Locked in a cupboard by her bemused nephew to hide her from his intended inlaws, Lilo Baur's Tatsue finally emerges as a feisty old bird wearing a gold lamé skirt, precarious high heels and tall tales about Ikkaku's family.

With much dimming of lights Tatsue tells of the white whale that destroyed Ikkaku's brothers 20 years before — and, to his amazement, the brothers pop out of crates. They josh each other, introduce themselves to Myriam Acharki's playful Chisa and generally make Ti Green's astonishing old warehouse set look damp and cramped.

It is at this point in Sakate's play that the comic and the mystic come together with an unholy and unbelievable squelch. The brothers put blankets over their heads, dive on the floor and writhe on their bellies, snorting the air. Are they ghosts in Ikkaku's dream, Japanese break dancers, or are the brothers really alive?

There are but few clues in Kazuyoshi Kushida's production, which is characterised by gusto and dexterity rather than emotional truths. No fewer than five translators are credited in the programme with trying to decipher the nuances of Sakate's play, notably Mark Sparrow, but ultimately it remains as impenetrable as whale blubber. Bring a harpoon.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Fun with an undertow

Wearing shades, a lot of poise and very little else, Theatre Alibi presents an everyday story of young seaside folk mysteriously drawn to a toy light-ship blinking inside an art deco clock, James Christopher writes. There's Owen, a waiter prone to bouts of sudden and severe loss of balance; Marta, the melancholy chanteuse who mourns a drowned son; shy Dorothy, seeking love in lonely hearts ads; and Graham, a sweet boy who turns into a violent schizophrenic whenever he gets too upset.

The deceptively light way that Daniel Jamieson manipulates these pier-end lives gives his play the texture of one of Jacques Tati's hapless adventures. "You drunken bastard," shrieks Graham, punching Owen on the nose when the poor waiter tosses a drink all over his blind date, Dorothy, while suffering from one of his bad turns. Dorothy works in the local DSS, which is where Henry Hawkes's Owen grumpily signs on after being sacked. They meet again when their partners fail to turn up to an hilariously tacky Texan barn dance.

The darker moments are monopolised by Emma Rice's Marta and Daniel Jamieson's Graham. While Marta writes messages in the sand for the tide to deliver to her dead son, Graham starts dressing up in his drowned father's navy uniform and hearing voices in his head.

What makes the whole thing gel is the scene-setting skill of the accompanying band Spiro, whose violin, guitar and mandolin slide effortlessly from country and western to haunting folk. Nikki Sved's direction, too, is full of quirky ideas that bring the other-worldly dimension into close proximity with the playful physical skills of the company.

Hannah Young's excellent waif, Dorothy, learning how to jet-ski to cheer herself up, gives the company plenty of cartoon opportunities to chuck buckets of water over each other and most of the first row. But catastrophe looms when a storm breaks. Whenever there is a change of mood the cast is buffeted by an unseen swell, or the light-ship in Marta's clock starts beaming. Beneath this 90-minute crowd-pleaser lurks a spooky play about the ghostly pull of the sea.

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Right Hon for the right-on

Culture Secretary Chris Smith tells **Nigel Williamson** of his plans to give special-interest music a government leg-up

Chris Smith is far too clever to fall for what in Whitehall circles they still call the "Stephen Dorrell question". The hapless former Tory Heritage Secretary was once asked to name the last movie he had seen and the man in charge of government policy towards the film industry was forced to admit that he could not remember.

A change of administration later, sitting in the same office to discuss the Government's attitude to the music industry, it seemed only fair to ask Labour's culture supremo to name the most recent concert at which he was to be found strutting his funky stuff. "Bob Dylan," came the answer immediately, and added for good measure that the last time he ventured into a record store he came out with a Schubert song cycle.

It is not only musical tastes which have changed at what used to be known as "the ministry of fun". One of Smith's first acts on taking the job was to drop the official title of the Department of National Heritage. In its place emerged the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, in which the old watchwords of excellence and quality were supplemented by new Labourmantras such as access and inclusion.

On Saturday Smith will reinforce his commitment to musical diversity when he makes the keynote address at Musicalliance '98, a conference which will bring together representatives from across the non-mainstream music industry. The event will embrace the worlds of folk, jazz, electronic and ethnic music — in fact, anybody whose creativity lies outside the categories of commercial pop and subsidised classical elitism.

Smith will use the occasion to signal a subtle but significant shift in priorities designed to encourage the Arts Council to spread its funding across a wider musical spectrum. This may further alarm those already dismayed by his proposal that the Royal Opera and English National Opera — two of the most heavily subsidised arts institutions in the land — should share a home. But while the Culture Secretary has a passion for Schubert, he is equally passionate in his hatred for what he calls the "false distinction" between high and low culture.

Ask him how he justifies the fact that more than 90 per cent of funding currently goes to the European operatic and classical tradition and he admits that he cannot. But "the Arts Council has been moving a bit on this in recent times. Over the past year or two £18 million has gone to jazz and there has been a bit of support for Asian music. So I think we are beginning to see a move out of the pure classical tradition. It is a good start but it is only a start."

He cites four key tests which should determine whether Arts Council funding is justified — access, innovation, excellence and education. "It seems to me that there are many art forms in jazz, folk and ethnic music which meet those criteria as much as most classical music does," he says. "There are difficulties in dividing up the money that is available, but within those constraints an expansion of activity in those areas would be welcome. I think that classical music is important, but we should not allow that to shut us off from other genres."

> "The 1960s sense that we can make real changes is coming back"

In recent months Smith has made himself highly visible in popular music circles, just as likely to be seen at Midem, the pop industry's annual trade fair in Cannes, as sitting in a box at the Royal Ballet. Last week he presided over the first meeting of the Music Industry Forum, a poptask force whose members include Mick Hucknell of Simply Red, Sir George Martin and Alan McGee, the head of Oasis's record label, Creation.

Smith insists that there is much more to his role than a series of photo opportunities designed to attract young voters. "Music is becoming an increasingly important economic fact of life in Britain and up until now governments haven't recognised that. We now earn more in exports from music than from steel."

But many in the industry remain deeply suspicious of Labour's interest. Steve Sutherland, the editor of *New Musical Express*, voices a widely held view when he argues that the best policy Government can adopt towards pop music is to stay away.

"He's right, up to a point," Smith says. "The Government isn't offering handouts to popular music which can survive perfectly happily on its own. But we can take steps to help to establish the right framework in which it can flourish."

Such as? Smith cites several areas identified at the first gathering of the Music Industry Forum. "It was an introductory meeting and we went around the table asking everyone what was on their minds. They were very concerned about piracy and about intellectual property protection in a digital age, when CD-quality sound can be transmitted across the Internet. I have no intention of meddling in the music industry, but these are issues where the Government has a legitimate role."

One area where Smith is proud to "meddle" is to use his office to try to halt the decline of instrument tuition in schools. He plans to announce "in the next few weeks" a major new initiative designed to guarantee every school child the right to learn a musical instrument, funded partly from lottery money.

"I am greatly troubled about kids not having a chance to learn an instrument," he says. "Tuition is in sharp decline and is now divided along class and income lines. If you can afford to pay to play you probably still have the chance, but if you live in a poorer area you do not. I've been looking at how we put together a patchwork of funding in order to build that up again."

He is equally excited by another lottery-funded venture, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts. "It is basically a talent bank of £200 million and it is one of the most exciting things we are putting in place," he says. "It will support artists and musicians who need help to turn their skill into a product or a career. That might include assisting individuals to make their first recordings or to obtain final training at a top-notch institute abroad." The fund will be ready to make its first grants by the autumn.

Smith's own personal musical Top Ten ranges not only from Dylan to Schubert but from Robbie Williams to Mahler via Queen. Scott McKenzie's flower power anthem *San Francisco* also figures in his "desert island discs" and Smith confesses that being a child of the 1960s has shaped the attitude he brings to the job. "I was once asked what had most influenced me politically and I answered growing up in the 1960s," he says. "At that time there was an enormous sense of hope that it was possible to change the world, by democratic decision-making — and music and the arts were very much part of that sense of excitement. That got knocked out of us in the cynical 1970s and 1980s. I think we are now beginning to rediscover a little bit of that. Perhaps it is in a more mature and sober way, but the sense that we can make real changes is coming back."

● *Musicalliance '98 takes place at the Barbican on Saturday and Sunday*

CHRIS HARRIS



A bust of Otto Klemperer on the one hand, perhaps a tape of Bob Dylan in the other: Chris Smith's musical tastes are nothing if not catholic

Unlucky seven

AS THE Britpop fallout runs on apace, the wave of bands trying to extricate themselves from its ladish grip is a sorry sight. For Shed Seven (at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh) it should be easier than most to leave the gang, since they were never really part of it in the first place.

Frontman Rick Witter was too pretty, too wide-eyed and sensitive in his optimism, and their records not nearly macho or spacey enough to join the fold. They were the pop group who discovered their feminine side, on whom you could wean your kid brother.

Respectable enough, but mere lightweights compared to the so-called real thing. Yet, perversely, Shed Seven have had more Top Ten hits than most, and are blessed with a solid sixth-form fan base who understand what it means to be deep as well as macho.

TOP

On the day their new single is released, Shed Seven begin this short tour with *It's Getting Better* and finish with *Going for Gold*, which as a statement of intent isn't half bad. Both songs are awash with enough classic pop hooks to get a crowd too young to be cynical waving their arms as if the world's at their feet. Yet in between comes a set that, while peppered with finely crafted anthems, is as dull as dishwater.

Despite all the claims of the band rocking out on their forthcoming album, the new single *She Left me on Friday* sounds like Blur covering a Black Grape B side. To be fair, live at least it makes sense, sounding looser and more comfortable in its groove. As the gorgeously yearning *Chasing Rainbows* shows, though, Shed Seven come from a lineage that dates back to the Smiths. Yet where this should make them inspirational and special, tonight they merely sounded pedestrian.

It is hard to tell where the fault lies, though the booming acoustics of the venue don't help matters much. Shed Seven are a band lacking that killer punch to go the distance.

NEIL COOPER

CONCERTS: Stunning Shostakovich, neglected Parry

Season to taste

LSO/ Rostropovich
Barbican

As March unfurled, so the London Symphony Orchestra and Mstislav Rostropovich continued their Shostakovich series with a performance of the composer's own "spring" symphony, the Sixth. It was a slow thaw, with the watery light of the divided violins barely warming the dark intensity of the cellos' meditation. But by the time yet another of those rumbustious street bands had passed by, the "joy and youthfulness" of spring which Shostakovich wanted to communicate was in full bloom.

The appearance of this brass band at the end of a fizzing Rossinian finale — as well as the little Jazz Suite which opened the concert — came as further confirmation, in this revelatory series, of the true stature of Shostakovich. Only the greatest artists, after all, are humble and deeply human enough to exclude nothing from their recreative attention. And only great performances illustrate the point so graphically.

Rostropovich had sustained the meditative concentration of the first movement with remarkable skill, shaping, moulding and pointing each phrase so as to create ever-changing contours within an illusion of almost total stillness. And then, at the heart of this tripartite rite of spring, what a frolicking and a gambolling, as sap rose in the woodwind and the brass leapt as high and mad as March hares.

One of the real joys of this Shostakovich series is the programme book: no mere assemblage of commentaries and advertisements, but a remarkable collation of penetrating essays by the musicologist Manashir Iakubov, who has also provided pages of unpublished archive material and photos. He, like everyone, has a view on the much-debated ending of the Fifth Symphony, and it is cogently argued. But whether those searing brass chords and hammering rhythms ring out as a dictator's command to rejoice; whether they are screaming to the persecutors "beat me harder!"; or whether, as Iakubov feels, they are a true celebration of rebirth and the triumph of culture over barbarism, seemed to matter little on Sunday night.

The "answers" to the "secret" are not, in any case, mutually exclusive. And the best performances of this symphony show that even the search for an answer is beside the point. This performance was one of the best. The clashes of internal contradiction were unsparingly violent; the vibrancy of the strings grew in brilliance and strength even when it seemed as if they had given their all. And moments like the split second of restraint before the raised foot of a march and the fragile translucency of the final chords were typical of playing in which the soul of Shostakovich is being bared.

HILARY FINCH

Chaste passion of the drawing-room

Parry Anniversary
Wigmore Hall

KNOWN by millions only for his tune to *Jerusalem*, Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry wrote prolifically in genres both sacred and secular.

In recent years his symphonies and piano concerto have been given more exposure, and there have always been advocates of the many songs he wrote throughout his career. Last Friday was the 150th anniversary of his birth, and it was good to have a celebratory recital that brought together a selection of those songs, together with a performance of a neglected string quartet: Parry's Third in G.

There was a good reason for the quartet's neglect. After its sole performance, at a private house in Bayswater in the year of its completion, 1880, the music of the quartet, preserved in a score in another hand, was not recognised as being Parry's until 1992.

In all honesty, however, the work did not, in this performance by the Emperor Quartet, reveal itself to be a lost masterpiece. The andante possessed a certain lyrical charm and the scherzo and finale managed to generate some sense of urgency, but too much of the rest lacked real character.

The Emperor Quartet was better employed in George Butterworth's song cycle *Love Blows as the Wind Blows*, heard here in an unfamiliar version for voice and string quartet. These Edwardian songs about love and regret have a reticence, a buttoned-up quality typical of the era, yet also a capacity to release emotion with little notice. The final line of one of them, "Love blows into the heart", was delivered like a hurricane by the baritone Stephen Roberts.

To a selection of some of Parry's finest songs — from various sets of the *English Lyrics* — Roberts, accompanied by Terence Allbright, brought a similar eruptive passion to bear, frequently breaking through the surface of placid, sensitive word-setting to clinch the emotional argument.

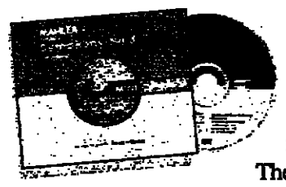
Especially memorable were the simple strophic *And Yet I Love her till I Die* — a touching avowal of eternal love at first sight — the more mysteriously evocative *Sleep* and the poignant *Looking Backward*, yearning for the intense spontaneity of conjugal love in the springtime of life.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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Readers of *The Times* have an exclusive opportunity to purchase six CDs of popular classics, including compositions used in six blockbuster movies, for just £5, saving more than £12 on the normal retail price. The 20-25 minute CDs are from the EMI Mini Classics range and include performances by The London Symphony Orchestra, The Hallé Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, the choir of King's College, Cambridge, pianists John Ogdon and Dame Moura Lympany, soprano Elizabeth Harwood and conductors Simon Rattle, Charles Mackerras, Bernard Haitink, Jane Glover and John Barbirolli.

CD TRACK LISTINGS (EXTRACTS)

WAGNER The Ride of the Valkyries (*Apocalypse Now*), Parsifal, Transformation Music from Act 1, Lohengrin, Prelude to Act 111, Die Meistersinger (Overture) **RACHMANINOV** Piano Concerto No 3 1st mvt (*Shine*), Prelude in C sharp minor **MAHLER** Symphony No 5 (*Death in Venice*), Symphony No 7 in E minor, Symphony No 1 in D (1893 version) **HANDEL** The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*), Ombra mai fu, Air, Hompipe, I know that my redeemer liveth, Hallelujah Chorus **MOZART** The Magic Flute (*Out of Africa*), Ave verum corpus, Horn Concerto No4 in E flat **BEETHOVEN** Symphony No 5 in C minor, Moonlight Sonata (*Howards End*), Violin Concerto in D



Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*

HOW TO APPLY

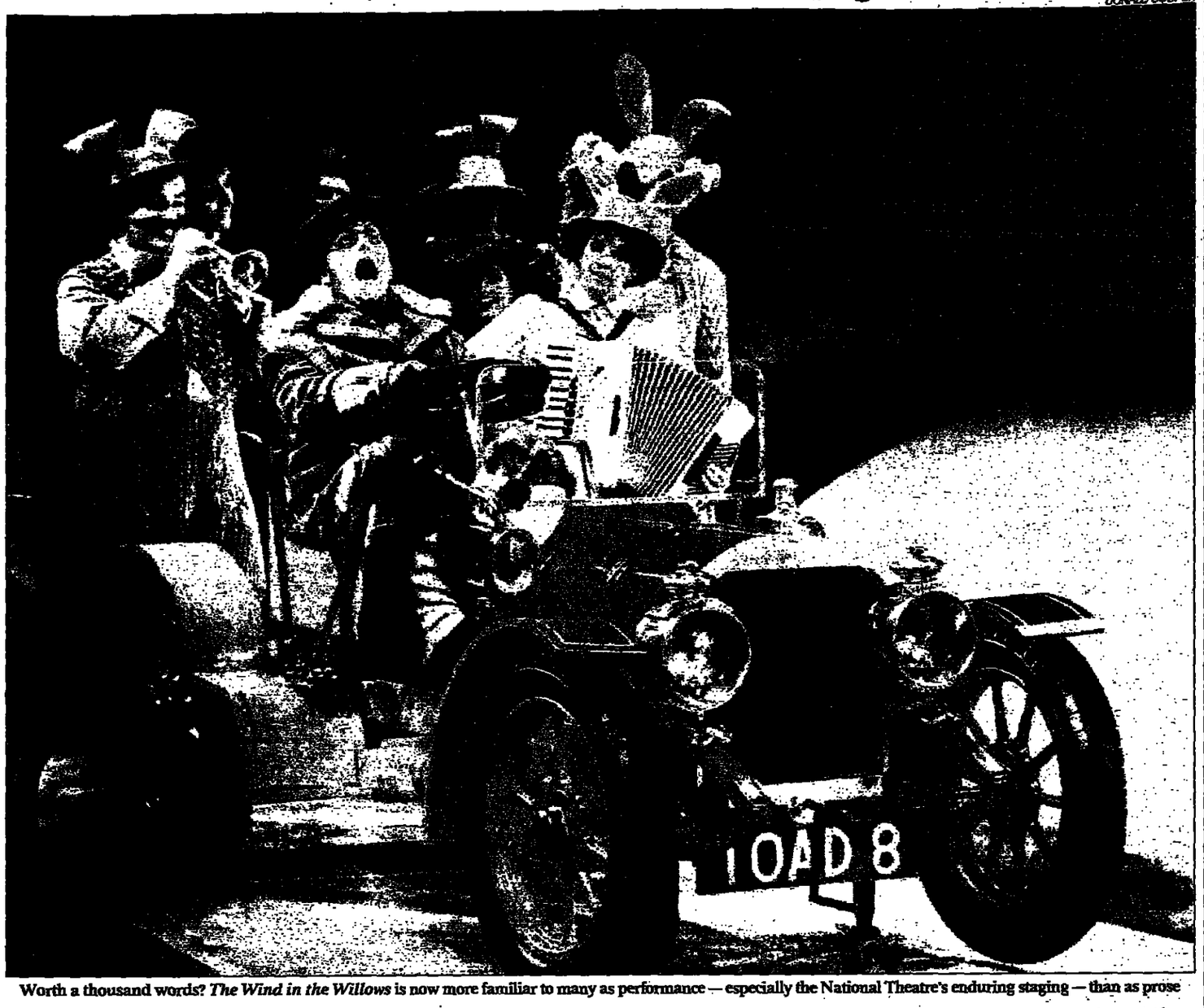
You need three differently numbered tokens for each set of six CDs. Six tokens will be published in *The Times* this week. Post them with an order form which will appear tomorrow. The £5 price includes postage and packing for the set. You can buy up to five CDs individually for £1 each plus 50p p&p per order. No photocopies of tokens are accepted. The offer closes on Tuesday March 31, 1998.

THE TIMES MINI CLASSICS TOKEN 3

CHANGING TIMES

Who knows what Katy did?

Children's classics are high on publishers' agendas these days. Nicolette Jones finds out why words still matter



Worth a thousand words? *The Wind in the Willows* is now more familiar to many as performance — especially the National Theatre's enduring staging — than as prose

When grandparents buy books for their grandchildren, they usually want the stories that gripped them in their own childhoods. Publishers have taken this fact to heart, producing children's classics in gift editions specially designed to appeal to grown-ups.

The latest such venture is launched tomorrow, with a dozen hardbacks of acknowledged greats including *Little Women*, *The Railway Children* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. These are André Deutsch Classics, priced at £4.99 and backed, or more precisely fronted, by the newscaster Trevor McDonald, whose face and supportive quotes grace the jackets.

This new list has been designed in "sweet-drop" colours so as not to look too stuffy, to guard against the danger that the books will emerge from the gift-wrapping paper to spend a lifetime on the shelf. Doting relatives take it for granted that classics are a good present, even if they might not always be the recipient's first choice (one publisher's publicist remarked carelessly of her own classics list: "I can't imagine children buying them."). But does it really matter that a new generation reads these books?

McDonald thinks it does. Classics, by his definition, are books that have "entered the vocabulary of life". He believes that to have no knowledge of them is to be "impoverished", to lack the proper frame of reference: they are "part of the heritage of the English language". They are also, he thinks, strong on story and character and rich in types that last: he cites Pip's aunt in *Great Expectations* (an influential work in his own youth, though not on the Deutsch list), who cleans with a fervour that makes everyone uncomfortable. "I know people like that now," says McDonald.

David Campbell, who relaunched Everyman's Library and has published, since 1992, some 40 children's classics in handsome gold-tooled hardbacks with silk ribbons at £9.99 each, agrees. His first motive for the project was that he felt many modern children's books were too televisual: they had lots of pictures, few pages and few words.

Campbell wanted, admirably, to publish books for *reading*, some as long as 450 pages. He also wanted to reinstate such illustrators as Kate Greenaway, Arthur Rackham and Aubrey Beardsley and Walter Crane, and found illustrations by Heath Robinson and Mervyn Peake, among others, that were negligently out of print. Three-quarters of a million copies of the Everyman Children's Classics have now been sold, half a million in America. They include everything from *Aesop's Fables* to Roald Dahl's *BFG*.

Equally comprehensive are Puffin Classics, elegant paperbacks at around £2.99. And Pavilion publishes a good-looking paperback series with colour illustrations by modern hands, including Quentin Blake and Michael Foreman. Ten are in print at £4.99, six more are coming in the autumn.

All these classics lists inevitably overlap. *Treasure Island* and *Black Beauty* are ubiquitous. But each list also has its exclusives: only Deutsch offers Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*, only Everyman Jean Webster's *Daddy-Long-Legs*, only Pavilion (in the pipeline) *Three Men in a Boat*, and only Puffin *The Phantom of the Opera*.

So what does "classic" mean, and what do buyers expect? The word is perceived as a stamp of quality, a guarantee that children will get the best. But who decides? Inevitably in most cases it is an idiosyncratic business. The editors, a well-read bunch who only got where they are today by consuming classics in their youth, discuss what to include. (McDonald did not help to choose the Deutsch list, but approved it.) They do what the potential purchasers do: they wax nostalgic about their favourite reads from their own youth. Then they get hard-headed and consider "longevity" in terms of sales and critical acclaim. (Philippa Milne-Smith of Puffin points out that R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps* series and Enid Blyton will always fall at this fence.)

Sometimes they trawl their own backlists or look for out-of-copyright books: if a list seems oddly eclectic, this may be why. Then they choose a mix of "boyish" and "girlish" books: supposedly *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* v *What Katy Did*. And they make the books look collectable, with high production standards to suggest quality.

Most of the selected books are ones we have all heard of, arguably because they're so good they have stood the test of time. But often it is also because they have crept into our culture in other forms. Sometimes they are books we merely think we have read. Everyone knows that Peter Pan is the boy who never grows up. But how many know that Mrs Darling tidies up her children's minds after they go to sleep, arranging the prettier thoughts on top ready to be put on in the morning, with the "evil passions" folded up small at the bottom? Hardly anyone, since this idea cannot be translated from page to stage or screen.

> "The Disney generation thinks Hercules had four labours"

Even an enduring favourite like *The Wind in the Willows* is familiar to many as performance rather than as prose. The plots and characters of classics may be at large in our culture, but they have stepped outside the books.

Sometimes they can surpass their original exposition — the *idea* of *Swiss Family Robinson* is more potent than its rather leaden prose — but all too often they exist in our imagination in disguise, dressed in layers of other interpretations, solidified in a stage costume with Alan Bennett's voice, or, much worse, redrawn by Disney, no great respecter of sources. (We are breeding a generation, thanks to Disney, that will think Hercules had four labours.) Whatever the virtue of other manifestations of these books in other media, they should not be confused with the originals.

All this is an argument for rediscovering the untainted word-built prototypes. But buyers need to know their readers well, and the classics themselves, and get the timing right. Some were written for adults (*Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* are among the Puffin Classics), and few are easy, with their 19th-century prose. Many are also less cosy than we tend to assume. Take *Peter Pan* again: Captain Hook's eyes were "of the blue of the forget-me-not, and of a profound melancholy, save when he was plunging his hook into you". Which is nothing to how the villainy of his fellow pirates is described.

It matters that children can read beyond the limitations of contemporary speech, otherwise they are confined to the narrow prison of the here and now. But it also matters, as McDonald acknowledges, that these books are part of a range of reading; some adults fall into the trap of buying off-puttingly difficult texts out of ignorance of what else is good. Newer books may also deserve to be given a chance to enter the cultural vocabulary of the future.

Here's a pretty challenge

DANCE

The Sleeping Beauty is a daunting and demanding princess, expecting no half measures from the companies staging her. In 1921 she almost ruined Diaghilev, who had felt that nothing less than unbridled lavishness would be appropriate; while the Royal Ballet's present production cost so much that we are sentenced to see it for many years to come.

English National Ballet had a modest budget by comparison, but Peter Docherty's designs for Ronald Hynd's 1993 staging, now revived and touring, translate economic simplicity into a handsome, colonnaded spaciousness. My only quarrel lies with the cheap polyester-type gold and glitter breaking out like acne among the costumes — costumes which otherwise successfully juxtapose historical accuracy and fairytale fantasy.

The Sleeping Beauty also places a huge strain on a company's manpower, not only in terms of numbers, but also ability: given the quantity of difficult solo roles. This meant a fair amount of doubling in Oxford, with first prize going to Alice Crawford who popped up everywhere — Fairy of Joy, Garland Dancer, Nymph, Red Riding Hood. And it meant we could note just how good the company looks: David Wall, Rosalyn Whitten and the other teachers have coached the dancers to make the best of themselves. Although there were no future Margot Fonteyns among the fairies, each danced her variation with an accomplished sense of shape and texture.

The tour marks the return, as guest artists, of the Estonian couple Agnes Oaks and Thoma: Edur, who are now pursuing a freelance career. The glamour they produce as a pair has contributed to small part to their success. But Edur is also the quintessential prince, the supreme *danseur noble*, with the silent landings of a cat.

Oaks as Aurora looked charming, but her beautifully proportioned lines lack the stretch and flow to sing. It was also a shame that she attempted only a minimal characterisation. Where Aurora's dances in each act can be considered to represent a different stage in her life's journey — from tender, shy 16-year-old to grand, aristocratic bride — Oaks overlooked any development, dancing everything with the same bland prettiness.

Daria Klimentova danced her exquisite arabesques and firmly centred turns as the Lilac Fairy; Tamiara Rojo's delicate clarity shone in the Bluebird pas de deux. I couldn't see what benefit Craig Randolph's Carabosse derived from brandishing a pet snake; but I liked the way he flew about on a wire. Hynd's production has a few other individual touches, but is otherwise satisfyingly straightforward; and the score was well-served under Martin Yates's baton.

NADINE MEISNER



GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

PHILLIP HOFFMAN



Age: 22.

Profession: Theatre director, producer, composer and tutor.

Where does he wear all these hats? In London, as founder and artistic director of the Forbidden Theatre Company. "We're dedicated to revitalising classics through adaptation, new translations and vividly physical performance." He has directed and composed the "Michael Nyman-esque" music for well-received productions of Lorca's *When Five Years Pass* and Marlowe's *Dr Faustus*. He also co-ordinates the company's thriving education programme.

No time to work for anyone else, then? Actually he takes regular classes as head of movement at his alma mater, Mountview Arts Centre.

Tragic hat-trick: Having already directed Brecht and Anouilh's versions of *Antigone*, he is now tackling the Sophocles original, in a new translation by Gwynne Edwards which opens at the Riverside Studios on March 11. "It's such a great, simple story that I'm very happy to be doing it again. The ritualised nature of the play and chorus suit Forbidden's style."

Precocious, him? "I joined the children's workshops at the Palace Theatre Centre, in Westcliff, when I was five and a year later told my mum and dad that I was going to be an actor. By 16 I was running the Palace workshops."

Pester power: Determined to obtain work experience with the RSC at 17, he rang the company manager every day for three weeks. "He finally gave in and said I could come up to wash costumes and sweep the stage. I did a few hours of that, then spent two weeks sitting in on rehearsals with Sam Mendes and Katie Mitchell."

Changing tack: "At Mountview I trained as an actor but I couldn't reconcile myself to the idea of a career which might involve nine months in something like *Les Mis*. I realised I was more interested in developing projects and telling other actors what to do — ie, directing."

Aiming high: "The physical theatre I direct with Forbidden isn't mainstream, but nor is it performance art. I'd like to think there might be a place for people like me in subsidised theatre. I'd love to direct Shakespeare with the RSC."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

Strange brew for export

OPERA

There are those who bad-mouth British opera, saying it's all very well in its parochial way but definitely not for export, so the first major production in Germany of Tippett's *Midsummer Marriage*, premiered last week at Munich's National Theatre by the Bavarian State Opera before one of the most sophisticated audiences in the world, was obviously an occasion of great interest. Acres of press coverage and audience reaction suggest an unsurprising outcome: great enthusiasm for the music — how could it be otherwise? — and slight bemusement over the stage action.

The musical side was indeed magnificent: Mark Elder had fired orchestra and chorus with his own belief in the score, and the quality of sound, the accuracy and spirit of the playing were overwhelming. Placing part of the chorus in the stage boxes was a masterstroke: Tippett's great pagan hymns rolled round the auditorium to pole-axing effect. There was little attempt at balance with the stage and words were at a premium, though the excellent cast (Philip Langridge and Lauren Flanigan as Mark and Jenifer, Alison Hagley and Christopher Ventris as Bella and Jack, Catherine Wyn-Rogers as Sosostris) made heroic efforts.

Richard Jones's production was more problematical. Oddly, the more abstract a work, the more representational you somehow want it to be. There was no hint of "this magic wood", of temple, staircase or gate to the underworld. Mark and Jenifer went on their journeys in a silver Hurricane fighter, or via the London Underground. A huge television screen dominated Giles Cadle's economy set and soon outstayed its welcome, even when dressed with a red double-decker bus, a Morris Traveller, and a sputnik.

Visual references, then, ran the gamut of postwar life; the St Trinian's wigs for some of the dancers were decidedly unfortunate, and Nicky Gillibrand's costumes for the chorus ladies, frumpy beige prints, could be taken as a slight on British design.

And people kept changing: the Ancients started as rich 1960s hippies and ended as cod-classical; King Fisher started as a caricature capitalist hate-figure with spats and a shooting stick and turned into the Fisher King/Amfortas. Bella didn't look like a secretary, or Jack like a mechanic. Maybe audiences shouldn't be spoon-fed, but this one was made to work pretty hard.

Midsummer Marriage (1955) seems more and more of its time, born of that great surge of postwar optimism betrayed by successive governments. In that context Jones's ending was as hideously ironic as it was apposite: Mark and Jenifer were married in morning suit and bridal gown, and ended up in a suburban semi with garden gnomes and two-point-five children. As Britten put it in another context: "Is this it all?"

RODNEY MILNES



Court not to enforce illegal foreign contract

Soleimany v Soleimany

Before Lord Justice Morritt, Lord Justice Waller and Sir Christopher Staughton

[Judgment February 19]

An English court would not enforce, on the ground of public policy, a valid foreign arbitration award which sought to enforce a contract which was illegal under English law as well as the law of the country of performance, even if the foreign arbitrator considered the illegality to be of no relevance since, under the law governing the arbitration, it would have no effect on the rights of the parties.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the defendant, Sion Soleimany, from the decision, dated March 25, 1997, of Judge Langan, QC, sitting as a High Court judge, whereby he dismissed the defendant's application to set aside leave granted by Master Gowers on May 4, 1993 to the plaintiff, Abner Soleimany, to enforce an arbitration award in the sum of £567,574.

The defendant and his son, the plaintiff, were Iranian Jews by origin. Between 1980 and 1983 the plaintiff arranged the export of Persian carpets from Iran, in contravention of Iranian revenue laws and export controls, and the carpets were sold by the defendant in England or elsewhere outside Iran.

Disputes arose between the parties and they both signed an agreement to arbitrate their dispute before the Beth Din, the rabbinical court, the system of law applicable being Jewish law.

By the award made by the Beth Din on March 23, 1993, it was recited that the plaintiff "purchased quantities of carpets and exported them, illegally, out of Iran".

The award was in favour of the plaintiff in the sum of £576,574 and costs. The plaintiff then applied ex parte under section 26 of the Arbitration Act 1950 to register the award as a judgment. On May 4, 1993 Master Gowers made an order giving the plaintiff leave to enforce the award.

Mr Bito Khalba and Mr Jonathan Miller for the defendant; Mr Daniel Serota, QC and Mr Colin Manning for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that it was important to emphasise that the court was dealing with a case where it was apparent from the face of the award that the arbitrator was dealing with an illicit enterprise under which it was the joint intention that carpets would be smuggled out of Iran illegally.

That was the view of Judge Langan and Mr Serota did not quarrel with that view. It must follow that the arbitrator did not take the same view an English court would have taken, but considered illegality to be of no relevance since he was applying Jewish law, under which any purported illegality would have no effect on the rights of the parties.

What attitude would the English court take if a foreign court had decided that there was a contract to commit an illegal act in a foreign and friendly state, but by the law of the foreign court, either illegality of that sort had no effect on the rights of the parties, or the foreign court was empowered to award compensation, and had awarded compensation?

Their Lordships' conclusion would be that if the award were a judgment of the foreign court, the English court would not enforce it on the ground of public policy.

Did it make any difference that the question of enforcement related to an arbitration award? There were material differences between awards and foreign judgments.

First, an award could only be valid if the arbitrator had jurisdiction founded on a contract between the parties. If that contract was itself invalid the award would be unenforceable.

In *Harbour Assurance Co (UK) Ltd v Kansa General International Insurance Co Ltd* ([1993] QB 701) the Court of Appeal held that the arbitration clause in an insurance contract was separate from the main contract with the effect that (a) invalidity of the main contract did not deprive the arbitrator of jurisdiction, and (b) the arbitrator had jurisdiction to decide the question of illegality of the main contract.

In the present case the original arbitration agreement was valid and the arbitrator had jurisdiction to consider questions of illegality so far as they might affect the rights of the parties.

Second, in enforcing an award, the plaintiff was enforcing a promise either implied into the reference to arbitration, or, as in the present case, expressed in the reference to arbitration.

If the reference to arbitration was valid, it could be argued, and was argued by Mr Serota, that since at the enforcement stage the court was only concerned with enforcement of that promise, the court should not examine what underlay the award any further.

Thus, he argued, all that he had to establish was a valid arbitration agreement, an award, and failure to meet the award.

The critical question was whether that submission was right.

An English court exercised control over the enforcement of arbitral awards as part of the lex fori [the law of the place where the award was enforced], whatever the proper law of the arbitration agreement or the place where the arbitration agreement was conducted.

If a claimant wished to invoke the executive power in England to enforce the award in his favour, he could only do so subject to English law. In the present case, that meant section 26 of the Arbitration Act 1950.

An award, whether domestic or foreign, would not be enforced by an English court if enforcement would be contrary to public policy. Where public policy was involved, the interposition of an arbitration award did not isolate the successful party's claim from the illegality which gave rise to it.

Mr Serota accepted that an English court could go behind the award, at least if the arbitration was governed by English law.

The reason, in the court's judgment, was plain enough. The court was concerned to preserve the integrity of its process and to see that it was not abused. The parties could not override that by private agreement.

They could not by procuring an arbitration conceal that they, or rather one of them, was seeking to enforce an illegal contract. Public policy would not allow it.

In the present case the parties were entitled to agree to an arbitration before the Beth Din. It might be that they expected that the award would be honoured without further argument.

It might be that the plaintiff could enforce it in some place outside England and Wales. But enforcement in England was governed by the public policy of the lex fori.

In their Lordships' view, an enforcement judge, if there was prima facie evidence from one side that the award was based on an illegal contract, should inquire further to some extent.

Was there evidence on the other side to the contrary? Had the arbitrator expressly found that the contract was not illegal? Or was it a fair inference that he did reach that conclusion? Was there anything to suggest that the arbitrator was incompetent to conduct such an inquiry? Might there have been collusion or bad faith, so as to procure an award despite illegality?

Arbitrations were, after all, conducted in a wide variety of situations, not just before high powered tribunals in international trade but in many other circumstances.

Their Lordships did not suggest that the judge should conduct a full scale trial of those matters at first instance. That would create the mischief which the arbitration was designed to avoid.

The judge had to decide whether it was proper to give full faith and credit to the arbitrator's award. Only if he decided at the preliminary stage that he should not take that course did he need to embark on a more elaborate inquiry into the issue of illegality. That approach was consonant with, and supported by, the recent authorities.

It should be made clear that their Lordships had been considering only initial illegality, present when the underlying contract was made. Nothing that their Lordships had said touched on supervening illegality.

Finally, it should be stated explicitly that when considering the illegality of the underlying contract their Lordships did not confine themselves to English law.

An English court would not enforce a contract governed by English law, or to be performed in England, which was illegal by English domestic law. Nor would it enforce a contract governed by the law of a foreign and friendly state, or which required performance in such a country, if performance was illegal by the law of that country.

That rule applied as much to the enforcement of an arbitration award as to the direct enforcement of a contract in legal proceedings.

The award in the present case, which purported to enforce an illegal contract, was not enforceable in England and Wales. In reaching that conclusion their Lordships were differing from Judge Langan whose judgment should be set aside and the order of Master Gowers reversed.

Solicitors: Nabarro Nathanson; Paisner & Co

Warehouse not industrial building for tax

Bestway (Holdings) Ltd v Luff (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment February 20]

Expenditure on warehouse premises used for the sale of goods wholesale on a cash and carry basis did not attract industrial building allowances. The premises did not come within the definition of an industrial building in section 7 of the Capital Allowances Act 1968, now section 18 of the Capital Allowances Act 1990.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by Bestway (Holdings) Ltd from a determination in principle by special commissioners (Mr T. K. Everett and Mr David Shirley) in relation to corporation tax assessments for the company's accounting periods from 1984 to 1993.

Section 7(1) of the 1968 Act defines "industrial building" as a building or structure in use "(a) for the purposes of a trade carried on in a mill, factory or other similar premises ... (e) for the purposes of a trade which consists in the manufacture of goods or materials or the subjection of goods or materials to any process, or (f) for the purposes of a trade which consists in the storage ... of goods..."

Mr David Goy, QC and Ms Aparna Nathan for the company; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that Bestway was the holding company of a group of companies whose trade was the sale of goods by wholesale from various self-service cash and carry supermarkets.

The buildings, some of which had been visited by the commissioners, were not retail shops, for they were not open to the public. Customers were mainly retail traders and caterers.

The goods were stacked on tall steel racking. Lower racks contained stock available to customers, while the upper parts contained back-up stock encased in plastic shrink wrapping. Stock was in the building on average six to eight weeks before it was turned over on sale to customers.

For the company it was contended that the commissioners had misunderstood the law: alternatively that the only reasonable conclusion on the facts contradicted their determination.

Storage

The commissioners rejected the company's contention that the buildings, or at least parts of them, qualified for the allowances on the ground that they were used for storage purposes within section 7(1)(f).

Did what was done at the buildings constitute storage? Mr Goy said that "storage" was an ordinary English word with the meaning of "keeping in reserve for future use or disposal" and as such covered the use of the areas of the buildings where the goods were kept, or at any rate any goods other than those immediately available to purchasers.

Mr Brennan said that what was required was a form of warehousing and not merely the storage which any wholesaler wanted for his goods.

The question was a difficult one, but at the end of the day the commissioners' conclusion could not be challenged. The determining factor had to be the purpose for which the goods were kept or held.

If goods were delivered for safe keeping to a depository, for example, a bank providing a safe deposit, so long as they remained in the possession of the depository they could be described as stored. But that would not be the apt description of goods handed over in the course of his business to a repairer or pawnbroker.

What was critical was the nature of the enterprise intended to be carried on and the role played by the stock in that enterprise. A building was only used for storage if the purpose of keeping goods there was their storage as an end in itself.

Here the company's stock was kept not for storage but for sale.

Section 7(1)(f) did not extend to such storage as it was merely a necessary and transitory incident of the conduct of the business of a wholesale supermarket.

Subjection to process

The issue under this head related to areas of the buildings where one or more of the following operations were carried out: (a) the checking and sorting of goods; (b) the repackaging of goods on arrival; (c) the labelling of goods; (d) the unpacking of goods, and (e) the reading of product codes on goods.

The commissioners found those operations to be mere preliminaries to the company's trade of selling and further that the company did not treat the goods with the substantial measure of uniformity of treatment or system of treatment required to enable the operations to become a process.

The phrase "subjection of goods to any process" had to be considered as a whole: see *Girobank plc v Clarke (The Times* January 6, 1998; [1998] STC 182).

It meant a treatment or course of operations involving the application of a method of manufacture or adaptation of goods or materials towards a particular use, purpose or end: see *Kilmarnock Equitable Co-operative Society Ltd v IRC* ([1966] 42 TC 675).

A substantial measure of uniformity of treatment or system of treatment was required: see *Vibroplant Ltd v Holland* ([1981] 1 All ER 526).

The process did not need to be industrial or complex: see *Buckingham v Securitas Properties Ltd* ([1980] 1 WLR 380).

The commissioners were entitled to reach their conclusion. Their view had much to recommend it. To recognise the activities in the buildings, as claimed by the company, as use for the subjection of goods or materials to a process was totally unreal and would extend the availability of the capital allowance far beyond what the legislature could have intended.

Solicitors: Anthony Oberman & Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Special relationship extends accountants' duty of care

Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd (in liquidation) and Others v Price Waterhouse and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Brooke and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgment February 13]

In special and unusual circumstances that established the existence of a special relationship, the duty of care owed by professional accountants employed to audit the accounts of a bank could extend to another bank that had its own independent auditors.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment granting an application for leave to appeal and allowing an interlocutory appeal in consolidated actions by the plaintiffs, Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd (in liquidation), ("Overseas"), from the order of Mr Justice Laddie (*The Times* February 10, 1997, that had struck out their claims against Ernst & Whinney, who together with Price Waterhouse, were defendants to the action. The other plaintiffs were BCCI Holdings (Luxembourg) SA (in liquidation), ("Holdings"), and Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA (in liquidation), ("SA").

Mr John L. Powell, QC, Mr Adrian Beltrami and Mr Charles Phipps for the plaintiffs; Mr Iain Milligan, QC and Mr Christopher Hancock for Ernst Whinney.

SIR BRIAN NEILL said that the three plaintiffs were in liquidation following the collapse of the BCCI group in 1991. The collapse was due to the enormous losses which resulted from the improper and imprudent manner in which the banking activities of the group had been conducted. The liquidators had brought proceedings against the auditors both in contract and in tort alleging breaches of their duties of care.

Ernst & Whinney was the auditor of Holdings and SA. Price Waterhouse was the auditor of Overseas. At this stage the court was concerned only with the claims by Overseas against Ernst & Whinney.

It was to be remembered that Price Waterhouse was the auditor of Overseas. Nevertheless Overseas alleged that in the circumstance Ernst & Whinney owed it a duty of care in carrying out the audits of Holdings and SA.

The allegation by Overseas, of crucial importance in the case, was that the business and operations of Overseas and SA were managed as if they were a business and operations of a single bank.

Mr Justice Laddie had said that Overseas had appointed and relied on the professional competency of its own auditors, Price Waterhouse, and the pleadings did not raise a case that Ernst & Whinney owed a duty of care to Overseas.

The liability of accountants and other professional advisers for economic loss caused by reason of their alleged negligence to persons other than their clients had been the subject of a substantial number of leading cases. It seemed that the search for a principle or test had followed three separate but parallel paths.

1 The "threefold test" stated by Lord Griffiths in *Smith v Eric S. Bush* ([1990] 1 AC 831) and considered in *Caparo Industries plc v Dickman* ([1990] 2 AC 605) that raised three essential questions:

(a) Was it reasonably foreseeable that the plaintiff would suffer the kind of damage which occurred?

(b) Was there sufficient proximity between the parties?

(c) Was it just and reasonable that the defendant should owe a duty of care of the scope asserted by the plaintiff?

2 The "assumption of responsibility" test that was explained in *White v Jones* ([1995] 2 AC 207, 268, 273).

3 The adoption of an incremental approach, recognised by Lord Bridge of Harwich in *Caparo* (at p618) and which received further support in *Murphy v Brentwood District Council* ([1991] 1 AC 398). That approach ensured that developments in the law would take place in measured steps.

The fact that all those approaches had been used and approved by the House of Lords in recent years suggested that it could be useful to look at any new set of facts by using each of the three approaches in turn. If the facts were properly analysed and the policy considerations correctly evaluated the several approaches would yield the same result.

The general trend of the authorities made it clear that liability would depend not on intention but on the actual or presumed knowledge of the adviser and on the circumstances of the case.

Here the banking activities of SA and Overseas were conducted as those of a single bank. There were unusual arrangements whereby the accounts of SA and Holdings were audited by Ernst & Whinney whereas the accounts of Overseas, the other principal banking subsidiary, were audited by Price Waterhouse.

The intermingling of the businesses of the two banks supported an argument that Overseas and Price Waterhouse in turn had to rely on Ernst & Whinney.

In cases where parties were dealing at arm's length the court would be slow to extend the orbit of the duty of care to include persons other than the immediate client. There was a barrier which had to be overcome and that barrier would be strengthened if a third party was in receipt of independent advice.

But here the barrier between Ernst & Whinney on the one hand and Overseas and Price Waterhouse on the other hand was a mere shadow. Constant interchange of information had been necessary.

Ernst & Whinney was in effect the supervising firm with responsibilities extending, at least arguably, not only to the boards and regulatory authorities of Holdings and SA but also to the boards and regulatory authorities of Overseas, as well as to Price Waterhouse as Overseas' auditors.

If one applied the threefold test or the assumption of responsibility test to the facts of the case as pleaded, it would be quite wrong to dismiss the claims by Overseas in limine.

However, the facts of the case were most unusual and it was not to be wished that the conclusion reached on the pleadings should be used in support of an argument in some other case that the court should be more ready than in the past to impose liability whenever a close relationship between adviser and advised was established.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Linklaters & Paines.

Setting off claim of borrower against lender after sale

Platts v TSB Bank plc

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Otton and Sir John Balcombe

[Judgment February 13]

When a lender brought a petition in bankruptcy against a borrower after sale of the purchased property had failed to satisfy the mortgage debt, any claim the borrower might have against the lender for negligence in failing to realise the full value of the property could be raised as an equitable set-off to the debt alleged in bankruptcy; and the cross-claim did not render the petition debt unliquidated.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by John Platts against a bankruptcy order made against him by Judge Weeks, QC, sitting as a judge of the High Court on the petition of the TSB Bank plc ([1997] BPIR 302).

The court held that while the appellant's claim against the bank could be taken into account it was not sufficient to reduce the petition debt below £750, the level at which a bankruptcy order could be made under section 267 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Mr Simon Mortimore, QC and Mr Stephen Davies for the appellant; Miss Linden Ife for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON, giving the judgment of the court, said that while the court accepted that in possession proceedings based on a mortgage debt the mortgagee's right to possession of the mortgaged property would not be defeated by a cross-claim of the mortgagor in the absence of some contractual or statutory provision to the contrary, that was not the instant case.

The authorities did not lead to the conclusion that there could be no equitable set-off where the mortgagee claimed a debt under the covenant to pay in the mortgage and the mortgagor had a sufficiently connected cross-claim.

It seemed clear that the debt and the cross-claim were closely connected and it would be inequitable not to take account of both at the same time.

The court rejected the argument that the mere existence of an equitable set-off was sufficient to make what had been a liquidated claim in bankruptcy both a disputed debt and unliquidated and hence deprived the creditor of his right to proceed thereon to obtain a bankruptcy order.

The court could not see why the bankruptcy court should not evaluate the maximum which the debtor could recover under the cross-claim, and if the net sum after deducting the maximum value of the cross-claim from the debt was £750 or more, why it should not be able to make a bankruptcy order.

Solicitors: Meade-King, Bristol; Berwin Leighton.

Common access deed includes horse riding

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another, Ex parte Billson

Before Mr Justice Sullivan

[Judgment February 16]

Access to a common for air and exercise granted by deed under section 194(1) of the Law of Property Act 925 included access on horseback as well as on foot.

Mr Justice Sullivan so stated in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application by Robert Billson against a decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment by letter on August 16, 1996 refusing to confirm Surrey County Council Bridleways Nos 587-593 and No 528 (Wotton) Definitive Map Order 1995.

In 1929 a deed granted permission for the public to come onto Ranmore Common. Until 1990 when the tracks over the common were decared private and the deed revoked, the public walked and rode over the common.

Mr Billson applied under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to modify the definitive map and statement by adding the claimed bridleways. Orders were made but following a public inquiry an inspector refused to confirm them.

Mr George Laurence, QC and Miss Louise Davies for Mr Billson; Mr John Hobson for the secretary of state; Mr Christopher Cochrane, QC and Mr Richard Rundell for Adrian E. White, the landowner.

MR JUSTICE SULLIVAN said that the following questions, inter alia, came to be decided.

1 What did the deed permit?

Section 193 of the 1925 Act conferred rights on the public over commons. Parliament had intended the broadest possible rights of access to commons for air and exercise, subject to the proviso in paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 193(1). Those rights extended to all tracks over commons.

His Lordship was not bound by *Miens v Stone* (unreported, April 30, 1985) and would hold that the rights were not confined to access on foot but extended to access on horseback, which was a normal mode of access in 1925.

The proviso did not specifically exclude horse riding; indeed paragraph (c) would be otiose if the public was not allowed to bring horses on to commons at all.

2 How were the public actually using the common?

The findings of the inspector were clear that the public was using the common for walking, recreation and horse riding which on its face was precisely the kind of use of the tracks which came under section 193 and was permitted under the deed.

If the tracks over the common were not used for air and exercise but, for example, as a route between two points then in principle such usage was capable of establishing usage under section 31 of the Highways Act 1980.

It might be difficult to distinguish between use for air and exercise and use to travel to a place, but if the distinction could be made on the facts, a right of way could be established by usage even though it was across a common. That was not so in the present case.

The inspector had also found that the public used the tracks in the belief usage was "as of right".

3 Was the public belief in use "as of right" sufficient to satisfy section 31 of the Highways Act 1980?

There was a need to establish the right was exercised nec vi nec clam nec precario (without violence, secrecy or permission). To establish a public right of way it was necessary to establish a genuine belief the enjoyment was as of right.

One did not have to prove in every case that one was using the land without permission if that was not raised, but if the landowner established there was permission the public could not assert use as of right: see in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Cowell* ([1993] JPL 851) and contrast *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte O'Keefe* ([1996] JPL 42).

It followed that as users were doing what was permitted by deed the enjoyment was as of licence and not as of right. That finding did not lead to an anomaly. There were many where section 193 of the 1925 Act applied and users who used them in the belief they used as of right.

It would be surprising if the activities permitted under section 193 would give rise to user as of right. In *Ex parte Cowell* Lord Justice Staughton had suggested there might be an overlap but in his Lordship's view that might not necessarily be the case.

4 Had the landowner satisfied the proviso in section 31 by adducing sufficient evidence there was no intention to dedicate the tracks as a highway?

Evidence of intention had to be overt and contemporaneous. A landowner could not retrospectively say he had not intended to dedicate, but he was not required to publicise his intention.

His Lordship did not accept that for the proviso to operate there must be evidence that there was no intention to dedicate in the 20-year period specified in section 31. The words "during that period" were not to be equated with "throughout that period".

In the present case the deed was expressly revocable and there was clear evidence that the landowner intended to prevent use for air and exercise at any time.

Solicitors: Brooke North & Goodwin, Leeds; Treasury Solicitor; Downs, Dorking.

Caution valid after invalid admission

Regina v Chief Constable of the Lancashire Constabulary, Ex parte Atkinson and Another

Where a defendant made an admission to an offence, it would be acceptable to caution formally, even if the circumstances of the admission did not comply with Code C of *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (s.66) Codes of Practice*.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Jusice Maurice Kay) so held on February 5, when dismissing applications for judicial review of the decision of the Lancashire Constabulary to administer cautions under *The Cautioning of Offenders* (Home Office Circular 18/1994) on July 27, 1996 against Malcolm Atkinson for obstructing a police officer, contrary to section 51(3) of the Police Act 1964, and against Stephen Atkinson for using threatening, abusive or insulting words, contrary to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that if the defendant made a clear and unequivocal admission, it was acceptable for the police to dispose of the case by way of a caution although the admission did not conform with the 1984 Act and would not therefore be admissible in criminal proceedings.

However, police would be well advised to take precautions that would satisfy Code C, so that where the admission made was not admissible in criminal proceedings it would be fairer and more reliable for a formal interview to take place: *R v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Ex parte Thompson* ([1997] 1 WLR 1519).

Limiting scope of discovery

Kapur v J. W. Francis and Co and Another

In ordering the separate trial of issues of liability and quantum, a judge had a discretion whether and to what extent discovery should be ordered, but, prima facie, no discovery should be ordered of matters on an issue which might never be tried.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Millett and Sir Brian Neill) so held on February 9 when dismissing an appeal by the first defendant insurance brokers, J. W. Francis and Co, against Mr Justice Rougier who on June 19, 1997 ordered separate trials on liability and quantum in an action by the plaintiff, Ramesh Kumar Kapur, against the brokers and the second defendant, Nigel Hinkson, for damages for breach of contract or negligence in failing to effect a policy of insurance in respect of Mr Kapur's shop in Maidenhead.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that if a defendant wished to ask a court to impose as a term of separate trials an order for discovery of information as to quantum, to enable him to make a realistic offer of settlement or payment into court, he had to specify the information he required and justify the request by satisfying the court that such an order was not wasteful of costs and would be of real assistance to him in making a realistic and sensible offer of settlement or payment in.

It was difficult to conceive of a situation where it would be right to order general discovery of a plaintiff's documents relating to quantum to enable a defendant to ascertain the strength of the plaintiff's case.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

In the matter of Priorywood (G) Limited formerly Cassels Limited and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
Notice is hereby given that Andrew McTear of KPMG, 37 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1XL was appointed Liquidator of the company on 16 February 1998. The creditors of the company are required, on or before 9 April 1998 to send in their names, addresses and claims to the undersigned or the above address or they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before debts are proved.
Date: 19 February 1998
Andrew McTear, Liquidator

In the matter of Priorywood (CDM) Limited formerly Cafe des Amis Limited and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
Notice is hereby given that Andrew McTear of KPMG, 37 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1XL was appointed Liquidator of the company on 16 February 1998. The creditors of the company are required, on or before 9 April 1998 to send in their names, addresses and claims to the undersigned or the above address or they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before debts are proved.
Date: 19 February 1998
Andrew McTear, Liquidator

In the matter of Priorywood (DES) Limited formerly Michel's Brasserie Limited and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
Notice is hereby given that Andrew McTear of KPMG, 37 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1XL was appointed Liquidator of the company on 16 February 1998. The creditors of the company are required, on or before 9 April 1998 to send in their names, addresses and claims to the undersigned or the above address or they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before debts are proved.
Date: 19 February 1998
Andrew McTear, Liquidator

In the matter of Priorywood (CP) Limited formerly Cafe Francais Limited and
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
Notice is hereby given that Andrew McTear of KPMG, 37 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1XL was appointed Liquidator of the company on 16 February 1998. The creditors of the company are required, on or before 9 April 1998 to send in their names, addresses and claims to the undersigned or the above address or they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before debts are proved.
Date: 19 February 1998
Andrew McTear, Liquidator

JOHN STANLEY WENLOCK
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of JOHN STANLEY WENLOCK of 15 Clifton Road, Greenford, Middlesex, Retired Security Officer, who died INTESTATE on 17 October 1997, was required to send particulars of their claims or interest in writing by the 5th May 1998 to DAVID EDWARD WENLOCK, at KNITE HALL, JULIVER & CO, after which the Executor will distribute the estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interest of which he has had notice.
25th February 1998
Knite Hall, Juliver & Co,
422 Greenford Road,
Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9AG

Revenue of Sizes Act 1967
Holy Trinity Church of England School House Burton-on-Trent
WHEREAS:
1. By a Conveyance dated 18 April 1861 between the Most Honourable Henry Marquess of Anglesey, the Revd Peter Peach, William Goodger and Francis Thompson, the elder, in Hawkins Lane, Burton-on-Trent, of which became known as Holy Trinity Church of England School was granted to the Ministers and Churchwardens of the Trinity District Parish of the Parish of Burton-on-Trent as trustees for a grant to section 2 of the School Sites Act 1841 and is now vested in the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish of St. Modwen's, Burton-on-Trent.
2. The School Houses, No. 6 Hawkins Lane, ceased to be used for the purposes of a voluntary school in 1981 and pursuant to section 2 of the Revenue of Sizes Act 1967 a trust for sale has arisen in respect of the said premises.
Now Take Notice
1. The Diocese of Lichfield has made application to the Secretary of State for Education and Employment for the inclusion of the above school house in a future Order under Sections 554 and 556 of the Education Act 1996, the purpose of the Order being to allow the assets of the foundation to be used for the benefit of new and continuing schools of the same denomination with the Diocese. The same Order will extinguish the rights of beneficiaries under the trust.
2. Any beneficiary who wishes to oppose the extinguishment of their rights should notify their claim in writing to Fowler, Langley & Wright, 20 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4BY not later than 5th June 1998.

LEGAL NOTICES

Cimongate Decorating Services Limited
IN LIQUIDATION
RULE 4.106 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, Michael William Young of Thornton Thornton & Co, Tunnington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of Cimongate Decorating Services Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on 27 February 1998.
Dated this 27 February 1998.
Michael William Young, Liquidator

HANDRAG FILMS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the Creditors in the above matter is to be held at Sherlock Homes, 7 Kendrick Place, London W1H 3PF, on 19th March 1998 at 10.30am, to consider our proposals under S23(3) of The Insolvency Act 1986, and to receive our statement pursuant to Rule 2.36 of the Insolvency Rules 1986. A proxy form should be completed and returned to us by the close of the meeting if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented. In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting, you must give to us, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of your claim.
Dated 27th February 1998
P S DUNN, Joint Administrator

NO 006307 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF FERSON HOLDINGS PLC AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 11 February 1997 confirming the reduction of the Share Capital of the Company from £15,999,263.00 to £3,903,965.86 and the reduction of the sum standing to the credit of the Share Premium Account of the Company from £15,499,151.00 to £1,793,910.00 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 18 day of February 1998.
DATED the 25 day of February 1998
Rigg & Ellison, Rutland House, 148 Edmund Street, Birmingham B3 2JR. Ref: 71/kd/fers/hec/ffer12-27. Solicitors for the above named Company.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 SECTION 175 PURCHASE OF SHARES FROM CAPITAL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:
1. By special resolution of the shareholders of Strathmore Oils (MK) Limited approved on 26th February 1998 the payment out of capital of £100,397 for the purpose of the Company acquiring 99,900 ordinary shares of 90p each.
2. The full list of members whose shares are being repurchased is available for inspection at the registered office of the Company situated at The Old Mill, Park Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5BS.
3. The amount of permissible capital payment is defined by Sections 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was £100,397.
4. The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditor's report required by section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company situated at The Old Mill, Park Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5BS.
5. Any creditor of the company may at any time within the period of five weeks immediately following 26 February 1998 (being the date of the above-mentioned special resolution) apply to the High Court under Section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
Name of Company: Crane Valley Golf Club Limited. Number of Company: 2480587. Former name of Company registered in last 12 months: Trading name of Company: As last twelve months. Full name(s) of administrative receiver(s): David John Blenkarn, Peter Sheldon Pellegrine, Address: Price Waterhouse, The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, Hampshire SO14 3QG. Date of Appointment: 27 February 1998. Appointor: National Westminster Bank PLC. Nature and date of instrument conferring power to appoint: Debenture dated 7 October 1991. Short description of assets of the company (if any) to which appointment does not apply. Signed this 27 February 1998
D J Blenkarn
Joint administrative receiver

The Insolvency Act 1986
ESTREMATING SERVICES LIMITED
LS.C.S. LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 24th March 1998 at The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts, at 11.00 am and at 12 noon respectively for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Huntington, FIPA of Pogmores & Appleby, 4 Chesterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BN is appointed to act as the qualified insolvency practitioner for the purposes of Section 98 (2)(b) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated this 27th February 1998
By Order of the Board
R Murphy, Director

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the persons or person mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SIR JOHN RICHARD WRAIGHT late of 25 Pennon Street, London NW8 who died on 23rd April 1997; partnership to Clyde & Co, Beaufort House, Chertsey Street, Guildford GU1 4EA on or before 6th May 1998, (quoting reference AFB).

THE O SCHEME OF STANDARD TELEPHONES AND CABLES LIMITED
This advertisement is being placed on behalf of the Trustees of the Nortel (UK) Pension Plan which is responsible for paying the benefits formerly provided by the O Scheme, an occupational pension scheme established by STC Limited in 1961, which became closed to new members on April 1975. The O Scheme provided benefits for employees in these companies:
STC Limited
Kolster-Brandes Limited
Standard Telecommunications Laboratories Limited
International Marine Radio Company Limited
Standard Telephone and Cables (Northern Ireland) Limited
Standard Industrial Services Limited
Nortel Electronics Limited
Aeo Radio Limited
Submarine Cables Limited
If you belong to one of the following categories you may be entitled to benefits (or additional benefits) from the O Scheme. The Trustees wish to trace:
- anyone who is or was entitled to a O Scheme pension but who has not claimed it;
- anyone who would have been entitled to a O Scheme pension if he or she had not decided to exchange it for a lump sum or to transfer it to another occupational pension scheme or insured arrangement;
- the personal representatives of anyone in either of the above categories who has died since April 1975;
- the personal representatives of anyone who has been in receipt of a O Scheme pension since April 1975 but who has since died.

If you think you belong to one of these categories and you have not responded to either of the previous two advertisements or otherwise in correspondence about the 'O' Scheme, please contact the Trustees c/o O Scheme, Box No 370, Nortel plc, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1HB.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6978 OR FAX:0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

German's intransigence maintains feudal system in Formula One

Schumacher refuses to turn the corner

The shadow of Jérez looms over Melbourne in the build up to the Australian Grand Prix. Kevin Eason reports



RICK RYCHOFT



Villeneuve savours the view from the top of the motor racing world, while Schumacher, right, remains a man apart

The feud that threatens to overshadow the Formula One world championship this season showed little sign of abating yesterday, with Michael Schumacher passing up the opportunity of a reconciliation with Jacques Villeneuve.

Five days before they are due on track in Melbourne for the Australian Grand Prix, they met by chance while on promotional duties in Sydney — their first encounter since their notorious collision in the final race of last season at Jérez. Pre-season discussion has been of little else but that incident, after which the FIA, the governing body of Formula One, stripped Schumacher of his second place in the championship.

Schumacher had an opportunity yesterday to still the *turbulence that has engulfed* him for the past four months, but, in an apparent consolidation of his lofty persona, there was no handshake and definitely no hint of a climbdown. Instead, it was left to Villeneuve to forgive ... if not forget.

The Canadian, 26, refused to be drawn on the more intricate details of their private meeting, held over a cup of coffee, but did say: "There was no talk of an apology. No talk of the incident. Not much was said, but for a few months we have only spoken to each other through the papers, so we cleared that out.

"I am not angry about it [the incident], it was what happened afterwards, but there is no point in waking up every day and thinking about it. It won't affect the the way I drive."

No compromise, then, on his own aggressive style and certainly no doubt that the German will be as ruthless and unforgiving as ever.

"If you hesistate, you go off," he said. "You either make the decision or you don't. I do expect Michael Schumacher to be quick. Ferrari will not have any excuses this year, which is good."

This is the new, improved Villeneuve. Relaxed, confident and with nothing to prove. While Schumacher has been shunted into the marketing slow lane, Villeneuve has been grinning that amiable, if slightly unconvincing, grin — like an embarrassed teenager roped into his granny's birthday photograph — at all and sundry.

It was not the most subtle of metaphors, but this week the man at the top of Formula One even climbed to the top of Sydney Harbour Bridge for a photocall to survey all beneath him.

His equanimity is derived from the knowledge that, in the final reckoning of the Jérez crash, he emerged as world champion, with Schumacher trapped in the gravel and in ignominy.

"I won and he didn't. What have I got to worry about," Villeneuve said with a shrug.

"I feel very much more relaxed this year because when you are trying to be world champion, there is so much pressure. Now I want to win the title again, but that is a different kind of pressure from last year."

Schumacher's reluctance to proffer an olive branch, to cast aside the veil that is obscuring the true recognition of an outstanding talent that has taken him to two world championships, is mystifying. He has appeared increasingly embattled since being cast in the role as the bad guy in the black hat. He has been castigated by almost every driver, team manager and commentator, with the inevitable consequence that the race on Sunday is being cast as another bitter shoot-out between the gallant, virtuous Villeneuve and his dastardly rival.

> "There was no talk of an apology. No talk of the incident"

Nobody likes to be the pariah, the kid that nobody wants to join their team in the playground, but Schumacher is unquestionably that man. With every brickbat, that famous straight back has stiffened even more, the head held even higher. He has chosen to stand alone against the tide of condemnation, even if it has meant losing respect.

Villeneuve has said several times that he no longer respects Schumacher, although he knows that the German is still fast and fearsome.

Just in case Schumacher has forgotten the point when the racing starts on Sunday, Villeneuve attempted to spell it out for him yesterday. He said that there had to be room for ethics in sport: "There should be, there has to be and I believe in it. Not everybody does, but I do.

"I had the opportunity to do that in Suzuka [to deliberately drive Schumacher off the track in the race before Jérez] and keep a nine-point lead in the championship and I didn't do it. That's all."

Champion takes legislators to task

JACQUES VILLENEUVE warned last night that new rules designed to slow down Formula One cars this season could give "mediocre" drivers the chance to win (Kevin Eason writes). The world champion criticised rules that have made the cars narrower and introduced grooved tyres for less grip.

His remarks were an indictment of legislators' attempts to bring the cars closer together so that racing could provide more of a spectacle for the sport's hundreds of millions of television viewers. In particular, overtaking is now far more likely. Villeneuve's view was in direct conflict with the ideas behind the rule changes.

"I reckon our regulations have levelled everything down and mediocre drivers could have the chance of driving well because they are going to reach the limit of the car before they reach their own human limit," he said.

"Last year, sometimes you had to go beyond your own limits before you reached the limits of the car. I think this is a sport where you have got to be the best to win and a better driver will make a difference to the car. But the new regulations have taken that away a little bit and that is what racing is all about."

However, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, his team-mate, who has to prove himself at Williams this year, disagreed, warning that the cars were more difficult to control.

GOLF

Schofield setting out to widen tour's horizons

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DOHA, QATAR

THE boundaries of the PGA European Tour, which already extend to Asia, Australia and South Africa, are about to be widened further to include new countries, if not new continents. Tournaments in South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and Abu Dhabi could appear on the schedule in the foreseeable future, so that by the early years of the new millennium the tour will look dramatically different from the way that it did in the 1980s.

Ken Schofield, the executive director of the tour, arrived here yesterday after visiting a potential venue and talking to potential sponsors for a new tournament in Abu Dhabi. "Before I went, I was led to believe it was a magnificent facility and I was not disappointed," Schofield said. "It would be premature to say it is a done deal, but it is encouraging to meet the principals."

The tour, having competed in Dubai last week, has now moved a few hundred miles northwest. The first Qatar Masters is being staged at Doha Golf Club, a private members' club owned by the state of Qatar. With an event at the new Abu Dhabi course, the tour could soon stage three successive tournaments on new and testing courses in the Gulf at a time of year when sunshine is virtually guaranteed.

"I was delighted when the European Tour went from one to two tournaments in the UAE," Schofield said. "Now it looks as though it might go from two to three."

Schofield said that discussions for an event in Malaysia were well under way and might be included on the schedule as early as 1999. He also revealed that Johnnie Walker, the largest sponsor in golf in Europe, is anxious to move its Classic tournament, which has traditionally been the opening event of the season, towards the end of the year. This will enable it to be staged in places such as South Korea or Taiwan, where weather remains satisfactory at that time of the year.

Schofield will meet representatives from the South African, Australian and Omega (Asian) tours in Jacksonville, Florida, during the Players' Championship at the end of the month to try to work out a revised schedule, so that the four tours mesh together better. He foresees a time when the European Tour will start with a run of events in South Africa and then move to Australia, instead of the Australian events preceding those in South Africa, as happens at present.

"I would love the European Tour to be stronger without having to go abroad," José María Olazábal said. "On the other hand, we are all very international now and if we can't play in Europe in January, February and March, we have to play abroad. If we have to leave Europe during the early part of the season, then we must do it."

HOCKEY

England target bronze

ENGLAND lost 1-0 to Germany in the Sultan Azlan Shah tournament in Ipoh, Malaysia, yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes). However, with two matches to be played against New Zealand and Malaysia, they have a good chance of finishing high enough to compete in the play-off for a bronze medal.

The match yesterday was settled within two minutes of the start when Blunck, the Germany captain, unleashed a fierce, reverse-stick shot from the top of the circle. England rarely looked like scoring. They had four short corners, all of which were badly handled, while Sharpe missed a good chance from open play.

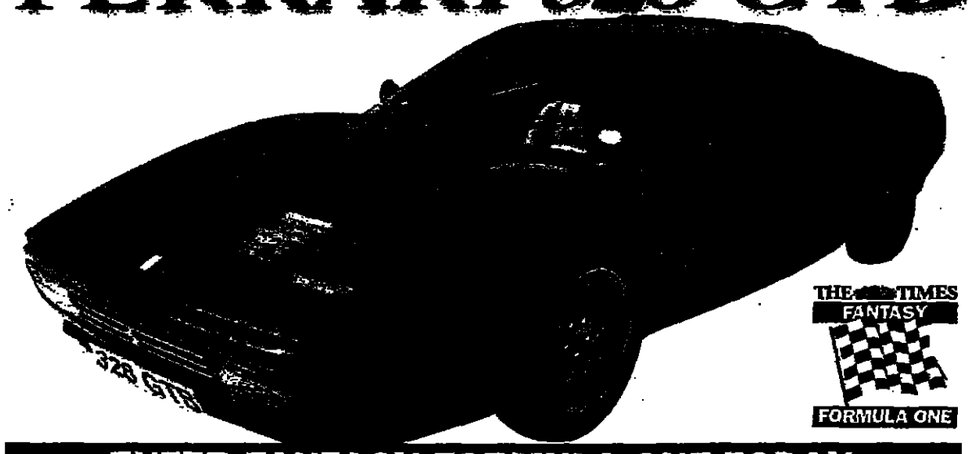
ENGLAND: S Mason, B Sarrad, J Hails, J Wyatt, W Waugh (capt), Kabir Takher, J Pidcock, N Thompson, M Pearn. Substitutes used: A Humphrey, C Mayer, R Garcia, Manpreet Kochar.

GERMANY: N Kowalczik, M Green, A Lanta, J-P Tewes, M Elmir, P Bellenbaum, C Mayerhofer, C Elmer, F Wallbrauer, C Blunck (capt), O'Domke. Substitutes used: P Crone, M Schreiber, S Banelt.

Umpires: J Wright (South Africa) and Jin-Soo Han (South Korea).

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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Gary Bell of Aylesbury, Bucks, has won a trip for two to Sunday's Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, worth £5,000, in our pre-season prize draw, courtesy of Psygnosis F1 Game.

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

GROUP A DRIVERS

01 Damon Hill
02 Michael Schumacher
03 Dávid Coulthard
04 Giancarlo Fisichella
05 Jacques Villeneuve
06 Olivier Panis
07 Heinz-Harald Frentzen
08 Eddie Irvine
09 Mika Hakkinen
10 Jean Alesi
11 Rubens Barrichello

GROUP B DRIVERS

12 Alexander Wurz
13 Ralf Schumacher
14 Jarno Trulli
15 Johnny Herbert
16 Mika Salo
17 Pedro Diniz
18 Jan Magnussen
19 Toranosuke Takagi
20 Ricardo Rosset
21 Shinji Nakano
22 Esteban Tuero

GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS

23 Williams
24 Ferrari
25 Benetton
26 McLaren
27 Jordan
28 Prost

GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS

29 Sauber
30 Arrows
31 Stewart
32 Tyrrell
33 Minardi

HOW TO ENTER

Choose six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups, left. Readers in the UK and Irish Republic can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on *0891 40 50 01* (+44 990 100 311 RoI). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Brazilian Grand Prix. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (max 16 characters), together with your details. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry.

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 40 50 01
+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Pre-emptive bidding can make life very difficult for the opposition during the auction but if the pre-emptor ends up defending declarer often has a big advantage because of the information he can take from the pre-empt. This deal from the qualifying stage of the 1997 Bermuda Bowl is a case in point.

Dealer North — Love all — IMPs

	♠AK742 ♥84 ♦A1086 ♣A4	
♠Q965 ♥AQ9632 ♦75 ♣Q		♠103 ♥J10 ♦92 ♣KJ107652
	♠J8 ♥K75 ♦KQJ43 ♣983	

W	N	E	S
—	1S	3C (1)	3D
Pass	4C	Double	Pass
Pass	4D	Pass	5D
All Pass			

Contract Five Diamonds by South. Lead: queen of clubs

(1) Weak.

Paul Thurston of Canada won the club lead and cashed a top trump in hand. Then he played ace, king and a third spade, ruffing. The 4-2 spade break was bad news but declarer wasn't finished yet. He led a trump to dummy followed by a fourth round of spades on which he pitched a club. West won the spade and, down to nothing but hearts, had to concede the contract.

Had West played ace and another heart, declarer would have won the king, ruffed the third heart in dummy and pitched his last club on the long spade. West did better than that, underleading his ace of hearts. The heart went to the ten and king and had declarer now played a second heart it could have been won by East, who would then have cashed a club for one down. But declarer simply won the heart king, crossed to dummy with a trump and threw his club on the spade before giving up a heart. The heart ruff in dummy was his eleventh trick.

Without the Three Club overcall, the winning line would never even have occurred to declarer, it being far more normal just to play for the heart ace to be onside.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Queen sacrifice

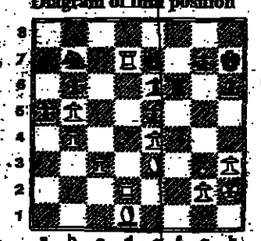
Peter Swidler, the Russian grandmaster, is the least experienced of the contestants in the elite tournament at Linares, Spain. Far from being overawed, Swidler, three times the Russian champion, has played with great self-confidence. In today's game, a difficult manoeuvring battle, Swidler gradually gains terrain and finishes with an annihilating queen sacrifice which tears the heart out of the black position.

White: Peter Swidler
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Linares 1998

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be2	e6
7	0-0	Be7
8	a4	0-0
9	f4	Qc7
10	Kh1	Rd8
11	Bf3	Nc6
12	Be3	Ne5
13	Be2	b6
14	Qe1	Nc4
15	Bc1	Bb7
16	b3	Na5
17	Bf3	Nd7
18	Bb2	Bf6
19	Rd1	Rac8
20	f5	Bxd4
21	Rxd4	Nc6
22	Rd2	Nce5
23	Bxe6	Bxe6
24	Be2	Nc5
25	Qg3	Rf8
26	Rfd1	Rcd8
27	Qe3	Bc8
28	Be3	a5
29	h3	h6
30	Rd4	Rf8
31	Bb2	Nb7
32	R4d2	Bf8
33	Kg1	Nc5
34	Rd4	Kh7
35	Bh5	Rd7
36	Nb5	Bxb5
37	axb5	Qc8
38	Qg3	Qe8
39	Kh2	Kg8
40	Bc1	Qf8
41	Be3	Kh8
42	R1d2	Kh7
43	Bd1	Qe7
44	Bh5	Qf6
45	Bd1	Qe7
46	c3	Nf6
47	b4	Nb7
48	Qxe5	Qxe5
49	Rxd7	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Linares update

In the eighth round of the elite tournament in Linares, Spain, all games ended as draws. Alexei Shirov therefore maintains his slight lead overall.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 32127) at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

RESGAT
a. To disown
b. Ransom
c. A Haitian pilot

RHABDOSOPHY
a. A Babylonian judge
b. Learning by silence
c. Sticky wisdom

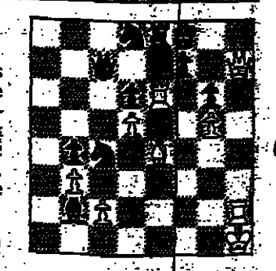
PROA
a. A sponsor
b. Prematurely proactive
c. A boat

RHINOBATID
a. A shark ray
b. Propelling by the nose
c. A fungal growth

Answers on page 41

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Fontaine — Clemens, Groningen 1997. In this complex position White's pieces have invaded the black kingside. What is his most accurate continuation?



Solution on page 41

RACING: SMALL NUMBER OF ABANDONMENTS INCREASES LEVY

Mild winter gives timely boost to betting turnover

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

ACCORDING to that noted meteorologist, Lord Byron, the English winter ends in July, to recommence in August. According to the more prosaic evidence of the bookmaker's ledger, however, he would struggle to explain a windfall being celebrated by the betting and racing industries, running into millions of pounds.

A remarkably mild winter has — by sparing the racing calendar its usual fallow middle period — yielded an increase in high street betting turnover comfortably in excess of £200 million. One industry source confirmed a 7.5 per cent increase on business between October and this point last year. The corresponding boost to levy income should, in theory, profit the sport by something in the region of £2.5 million.

The Levy Board budgets for the loss of some 40 fixtures at the start of the year, representing an overspend of around £900,000. This will have been handsomely cleared at its recent board meeting, however, when bookmakers reported a buoyant trade throughout the winter. Other benefits enjoyed within racing include considerably increased attendances and prize-money.

The most substantial gains have been made over the Christmas and New Year holiday programme. While 59 fixtures have been lost during December and January in each of the last two seasons, this time abandonments shrank to 23. Nor has any price yet been paid either side of this most vulnerable period; with just March to survive, the cards lost since October number 29, compared with a range between 71 and 88 over the preceding four winters.

Over recent seasons, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) has responded to the problems caused by a freeze by developing emergency or replacement cards, but these offer only a limited remedy. As David Bradshaw, the Levy Board fixtures manager, said: "They have been critical for the needs of the horse population but, since many will have been slotted into midweek as third or fourth meetings, they will not always have done a great deal from the point of view of generating levy." Moreover, organised at short notice, they tend to be sparsely attended.

By contrast, the survival of the bulk of this winter's scheduled calendar has seen turnstiles click to lucrative effect. Between October 1 and January 31, the Racecourse Association counted 1,004,812 punters at 325 meetings, a daily average of 3,092. The corresponding figures last year comprised 854,191 racegoers at 305 fixtures, while in the 1995-6 season there were just 768,290 to attend 278 surviving cards, a daily average of 2,764.

The loss of just one card on Boxing Day contributed substantially to this improvement and likewise to the fact that Britain's total racecourse attendance in 1997 reached 5 million for the first time in three decades.

A further barometer of the thaw in racing's traditional winters of discontent takes the shape of the new high in prize-money won in the first seven weeks of the year. Some £500,000 — £4.82 million as against £4.31 million — have been rescued compared with 1997, which had itself sustained prize-money nourishment from all-weather racing.

The Jockey Club sought to bring an end to the Top Cees affair yesterday by deciding not to reopen the case. After considering the issues raised by the libel action brought by Jack and Lynda Ramsden and Kieren Fallon against Mirror Group Newspapers, the stewards ruled there are "no grounds" for a further inquiry.

But it emphasised that in future a new protocol, to be introduced from the start of the Flat turf season, will make it easier to reopen inquiries under the "non-triers" rule 151 when offenders risk stiffer penalties. The stewards also pledged to continue to issue private letters to licensed individuals and found "no evidence of misconduct" among its stewards' secretaries.

ABANDONED MEETINGS

	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98
OCTOBER	10	2	0	1	2
NOVEMBER	15	4	1	6	1
DECEMBER	11	10	34	29	8
JANUARY	22	26	25	30	15
FEBRUARY	24	18	26	5	3
MARCH	6	13	2	0	–
TOTAL	88	73	88	71	29



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Dublin Flyer finished his career on a winning note at Warwick last month

Dublin Flyer retires on high

TIM FORSTER has called time on Dublin Flyer's career, despite the popular front-running chaser bouncing back to form when winning at Warwick last month.

He has scrapped plans to run John Sumner's 12-year-old in the Mildmay of Flete Chase at Cheltenham, scene of his triumphs in the Tripleprint Gold Cup (1994), Mackeson Gold Cup (1995) and Ladbroke Trophy Chase (1997).

"After a lot of thought, the decision has been taken to retire Dublin Flyer," the trainer said. "It was very much a committee decision between myself, John Sumner and Brendan Powell. He's not quite as good as he used to be and we felt that it was wonderful for him to finish on a high note at Warwick, where he battled so bravely." Dublin Flyer won 14 races during his career and earned just over £200,000 in prize-money.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Chaloner moves up world rankings

■ SQUASH: Mark Chaloner has regained his place among the world's top ten. The 25-year-old Hertfordshire-based player has enjoyed victories over Rodney Eyles, the world champion from Australia, and Peter Nicol, the world No 1 from Scotland, whom he beat in the British national championships.

Chaloner leapt to prominence when he helped England to win their first world team championship in Cairo in 1995 and worked his way to No 8 in the world rankings the following year before a cartilage problem inhibited his play.

Early starters

■ BOWLS: Dinefwr indoor bowls stadium, Ammanford, will host a 20-a-side junior match with a difference against the Cynon Valley club, Mountain Ash on Saturday. While junior in bowls terminology normally means under-25, this match will have ten players yet to celebrate their tenth birthday. Sam Williams, the Dinefwr match secretary, said: "This is the shape of things to come."

Aid for youth

■ STUDENT SPORT: Plans were unveiled yesterday for a new Institute of Youth Sport at Loughborough University. The Institute is to be funded by the university and the Youth Sports Trust and has the backing of Tony Banks, Minister for Sport. It aims to provide the best in education, training and sports development for talented youngsters and will act as a feeder for the new United Kingdom Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

Hester award

■ EQUESTRIANISM: Carl Hester, the national dressage champion, was named the 1997 Spillers Equestrian Personality of the Year at the ceremony at Knightsbridge Barracks in London yesterday. William Fox-Pitt's European three-day-event team gold medal-winner, Cosmopolitan, was voted Horse of the Year and Lord Oaksey was named the Racing Personality of the Year.

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER

2.10 Oban. 2.40 Miss Ondee. 3.10 Music Therapy. 3.40 TORBOY (nap). 4.10 Brave Highlander. 4.45 Sadler's Realm.

GOING: HEAVY — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

7.30AM INSPECTION

2.10 GREAT EXPECTATIONS CHASE (£7,306: 2m 3f 110yd) (4 runners)

101 116-343 GLITTER ISLE 34 (S) (Mrs T Pilkington) J Gifford 8-11-12 ... P Hide
102 1/112-4 OBAN 46 (D,G,S) (Lord Hartington) Miss H Knight 8-11-12 ... J Culloty 125
103 1353-14 MELSTOCK MEGGIE 40 (S) (Lady Cobham) C Brooks 8-11-1 ... G Bradley 117
104 33-22U3 ONE WORD 11 (S) (Berkshire Components Ltd) D Williams 8-11-0 ... Mr S Durack 116

BETTING: 11-10 Oban, 15-8 Melstock Meggie, 7-2 Glitter Isle, 16-1 One Word.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS: Glitter Isle 33l 3rd of 7 to Alles Modr in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good). Oban 27l 4th of 5 to Super Coin in handicap chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Melstock Meggie 17l 4th of 8 to Wade Road in novice chase grade 2 at Ascot (2m, good to soft). One Word 9l 3rd of 6 to Trouvaille in novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good to firm).

MELSTOCK MAGGIE ran creditably at Ascot and can fend off Oban.

2.40 POACHERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,234: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

201 /0-P330 MUSICAL MONARCH 42 (C,G,S) (S Williams) N Hawke 12-11-10 ... A Thornton
202 12203F MISS ONDEE 34 (B,BF,D,F) (C, B & B Bottomley) M Pipe 4-11-10 ... A P McCoy 86
203 25-5636 BEYOND OUR REACH 13 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Buckham) B Hodges 10-11-8 ... R Dunwoody 90
204 000-001 MINSTER'S MADAM 36 (V,D,S) (J Neville) J Neville 7-11-6 ... 101
205 653-P5F WHISTLING BUCK 16 (D,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 10-11-5 ... Miss E J Jones 89
206 3P/14/E- LAYOFTHENILE 114 (D,S) (T Rogers) ... 80
207 F1052/ RAINHAM 644 (D,G,S) (G Saltoss) D McCain 11-11-3 ... T Jenks
208 -2U45SP RYTHM ROCK 64 (BF) (R Jacked) R Jackes 9-11-0 ... Guy Lewis (5) 112
209 60/52/1 LITTLE SERENA 16 (G) (J Hardman) J Hardman 8-10-13 ... D J Burchell 80
210 4062363 ADMIRAL'S GUEST 36 (J Jardine) W Clay 8-10-12 ... G Tormey 85
211 1-35020 ALICE'S MIRROR 36 (B,D,F,G,S) (A M Partnership) K Bishop 9-10-10 ... R Greene 83
212 30/005/ COUNTRY CONCORDE 732 (B Coles) C Jones 8-10-7 ... L Suthern (7) –
213 3562210 COEUR BATTANT 34 (F,S) (B Jones) R Baker 8-10-5 ... V Slattery 87
214 000/5 SEIZE THE DAY 64 (Mrs N Coombe) M Coombe 10-10-4 ... Miss M Coombe –
215 00-4UD BULKO BOY 95 (Nobodys Partnership) P Hobbs 6-10-2 ... Mr B Widger (7) 84
216 4334 CADBURY CASTLE 41 (G Tindall) G Charles-Jones 4-10-1 ... X Aizpuru (3) 83
217 40/0050 LILILO 37 (R Lee) R Lee 6-10-0 ... Mr S Durack (5) 70
218 3P-P005 LADY PENDRAGON 16 (J I D Paine) N Smith 9-10-0 ... M Sharratt 85

Long handicap: Lililo 9-8, Lady Pendragon 9-4.

BETTING: 5-1 Miss Ondee, 6-1 Beyond Our Reach, 7-1 Minster's Madam, Admiral's Guest, 8-1 Musical Monarch, 10-1 Little Serena, Alice's Mirror, Coeur Battant, Cadbury Castle, 14-1 others.

1997: SCOTTISH WEDDING 7-10-10 R Johnson (7-1) T Wall 17 ran

FORM FOCUS: Musical Monarch 26l 11th of 18 to Green Crusader in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to soft). Miss Ondee fell in 4yo novice claiming hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good); previously 9½l 3rd of 5 to Anne Soleil in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, soft). Beyond Our Reach 12l 6th of 8 to Never In Debt in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). Minster's Madam beat Parisian 1½l in 14-runner selling handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft) with Admiral's Guest (6lb better off) 2¼l 3rd and Alice's Mirror (7lb better off) 1¾l 7th. Rainham 19l 3rd of 5 to Candid Lad in handicap hurdle at Cartmel (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Little Serena beat King Of The Blues ½l in 15-runner maiden claiming hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good). Coeur Battant 48l 15th of 21 to Walter's Destiny in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good); previously beat Alice's Mirror (4lb better off) 3l in 16-runner selling handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, heavy) with Musical Monarch (7lb better off) 6l 3rd and Lady Pendragon (9lb better off) 53l 10th.

MISS ONDEE can recoup losses after a costly blunder at Wincanton

3.10 CAFFREYS IRISH ALE NOVICES CHASE (£3,745: 3m) (14 runners)

301 51-1F13 KILMINGTON 21 (D,F,G,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 9-12-3 ... O Burrows (5) 115
302 /003/21 MUSIC THERAPY 66 (S) (R Van Gelder) T Forster 8-11-12 ... R Johnson 117
303 06-P03 BOMBA CHARGER 35 (M Ogle) Mrs S Williams 6-11-7 ... R Greene –
304 PP0-540 CAPTAIN MY CAPTAIN 27 (B,S) (Ancient Mariners) R Brotherton 10-11-7 ... S Curran 80
305 12F2/34 DARK STRANGER 11 (S) (T Neill) C Brooks 7-11-7 ... A P McCoy
306 3-3U340 DUNNICKS VIEW 18 (F Tucker) F Tucker 9-11-7 ... S Burrough 30
307 424U-45 EASY BREEZY 68 (G Harper & Partners) C Mann 8-11-7 ... J Magee (3) 93
308 2PFP/ FEICIM 1121 (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 9-11-7 ... R Bellamy –
309 0/P-5 HAN LINE 62 (J Coombe) M Coombe 10-11-7 ... Miss M Coombe –
310 0/P3P/P JUNGLE KING 79 (A Darlington) A J Wilson 9-11-7 ... L Harvey –
311 00P-P65 RATHKEAL 23 (S P Lansdown Racing) M Heaton-Ellis 7-11-7 ... B Powell 80
312 P3-1225 RIVER BAY 41 (S) (Riverwood Racing) Miss H Knight 7-11-7 ... B Fenton 118
313 0043-PP BOURNEL 63 (V,S) (N Bowden) C Barwell 10-11-2 ... Mr R White (5) 68
314 5563026 FORTYTWO DEE 19 (Triumph International Ltd) N Smith 8-11-2 ... M Sharratt 90

BETTING: 6-4 Music Therapy, 4-1 Kilmington, River Bay, 7-1 Dark Stranger, 10-1 Easy Breezy, 25-1 others.

1997: TENNESSEE TWIST 7-11-2 R Farrant (13-2) Mrs J Pitman 12 ran

FORM FOCUS: Kilmington beaten a distance 3rd of 5 to The Toiseach in novice chase grade 2 at Ascot (3m 110yd, good); previously beat Fortytwo Dee (4lb better off) beaten a distance in 10-runner novice chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Music Therapy beat Harlequin Chorus 11l in 9-runner novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Bomba Charger 19l 3rd of 9 to Belmontbruno in amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, good to soft). Captain My Captain 56l 7th of 16 to Ramallah in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good). Dark Stranger beaten a distance 4th of 8 to Escartefigue in novice chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft). River Bay 22l 5th of 6 to Careysville in handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good to soft).

MUSIC THERAPY showed promise at Huntingdon and is preferred to Kilmington

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing, F if flat. (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.40 PRESTIGE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II: £9,690: 3m) (8 runners)

401 3215P5T BULLENS BAY 11 (CD,F,G,S) (J Milton) B Llewellyn 8-11-6 ... B Fenton 115
402 2-02112 GOOD LORD MURPHY 11 (BF,G,S) (Country Side) P Hobbs 6-11-6 ... R Dunwoody 125
403 14-0211 RED CURATE 11 (C,G,S) (Mrs M Turner & C White) G McCourt 7-11-6 ... W Marston 114
404 0-F1421 BRACKSHEATH 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Grist) D Grissell 7-11-3 ... M A Fitzgerald 100
405 51 EISHKEN 104 (S) (P Pottinger) M Bradstock 6-11-3 ... G Bradley 121
406 F-F2281 MACMORRIS 40 (D,S) (R Tooth) D Nicholson 5-11-3 ... R Johnson 117
407 2-22111 BIRKDALE 39 (D,S) (E Birkbeck) L Lungo 7-11-0 ... R Supple 115
408 55/1 TORBOY 14 (G) (P Green) M Pipe 8-11-0 ... A P McCoy

BETTING: 7-4 Red Curate, 2-1 Torboy, 10-1 Good Lord Murphy, Eishken, 12-1 Bullens Bay, Bracknheath, Macmorris, Birkdale.

1997: YOUNG KENNY 6-11-0 R Supple (11-2) P Beaumont 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Bullens Bay beat Good Lord Murphy (10lb better off) 7l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (3m, good to soft). Red Curate beat Strong Tel 3½l in 11-runner novice hurdle grade 2 at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Bracknheath beat Looks Like Trouble 6l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). Eishken beat Relative Chance 6l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft). Macmorris beat My Shenandoah 13l in 6-runner novice handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, soft). Birkdale beat Tindles Bible 11l in 21-runner novice hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft). Torboy beat Fullyama Crest 16l in 15-runner maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, good).

RED CURATE won in convincing style here last time and can hold Torboy

4.10 HUNTSMANS HANDICAP CHASE (£5,061: 3m) (8 runners)

501 113/P0P GREENHIL TARE AWAY 25 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Payne) P Hobbs 10-11-13 ... S McNeill 90
502 1/4U114 BRAVE HIGHLANDER 18 (BF,D,G,S) (S Embiricos) J Gifford 10-11-6 ... P Hide 127
503 /1P23/P DO RIGHTLY 105 (S) (M Fitzpatrick) M Bradstock 9-11-4 ... P Holley –
504 P4P15-P JACOB'S WIFE 42 (S) (Black Sheep Flock) P R Webber 8-10-11 ... J A McCarthy 110
505 131-284 POUCHER 84 (BF,S) (Mrs A Wood) T Forster 8-10-11 ... S Wynne 130
506 16-1241 MALWOOD CASTLE 44 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs U Wainwright) R Alner 8-10-10 ... A Thornton 131
507 /2P312- FOXTROT ROMEO 354 (BF,D,G,S) (Lady Cobham) C Brooks 8-10-8 ... G Bradley
508 P3111/F MERLIN'S LAD 21 (D,F,G,S) (H Messer-Bennetts) T Forster 9-10-7 ... J Culloty

BETTING: 5-2 Malwood Castle, 7-2 Brave Highlander, 5-1 Poucher, Foxtrot Romeo, 7-1 Merlin's Lad, 10-1 Jacob's Wife, 14-1 Greenhil Tare Away, 16-1 Do Rightly.

1997: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS: Greenhil Tare Away pulled up in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 4f, soft); previously 55l 7th of 14 to Earth Summit in handicap chase grade 1 at Chepstow (3m 5f 110yd, heavy). Brave Highlander beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Court Melody in handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good); previously beat Ocean Leader 11l in 9-runner handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to soft). Do Rightly pulled up in handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good); previously 38l 3rd of 12 to Nahthen Lad in chase grade 1 at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft). Jacob's Wife pulled up in handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft); previously 15l 5th of 7 to Pearl Epee in handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good). Poucher 27l 4th of 5 to Coole Hill in handicap chase at Stratford (3m, soft). Malwood Castle beat Brogeen Lady 1½l in 8-runner handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft). Foxtrot Romeo 12l 2nd of 8 to Judicious Captain in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good). Merlin's Lad fell in handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good); previously beat Hillwalk 1¼l in 10-runner handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, good).

MALWOOD CASTLE, a course and distance winner, has Brave Highlander to beat

4.45 GAMEKEEPERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,778: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

601 15-3433 STAR SELECTION 32 (D,S) (R Mitchell) J Mackie 7-12-0 ... E Husband (3)
602 321F11- SON OF ANSHAN 348 (D,F,G,S) (F Salisbury) Mrs M Jones 5-12-0 ... B Powell 133
603 323-113 SUPERTOP 121 (BF,D,F,G) (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 10-11-13 ... R Supple 122
604 -012111 SADLER'S REALM 82 (CD,S) (B D Racing) P Hobbs 5-11-1 ... R Dunwoody 137

BETTING: 2-1 Sadler's Realm, 5-2 Star Selection, 3-1 Son Of Anshan, 7-2 Supertop.

1997: KADASTROF 7-11-12 X Aizpuru (12-1) R Dickin 14 ran

FORM FOCUS: Star Selection 5¼l 3rd of 9 to Caulker in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to soft). Son Of Anshan beat Bold Classic 22l in 12-runner juvenile novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good). Supertop 15l 3rd of 5 to Best Of All in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm). Sadler's Realm beat Handy Lass 5l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f 110yd, heavy).

SADLER'S REALM relishes testing conditions and can complete a four-timer

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Hobbs	21	81	25.9	A P McCoy	32	119	26.9
G McCourt	3	12	25.0	R Dunwoody	24	111	21.6
M Pipe	43	185	23.2	R Johnson	12	59	20.3
D Nicholson	15	65	23.1	G Bradley	4	20	20.0
R Alner	5	32	15.6	W Marston	12	64	18.8
T Forster	5	46	10.9	G Tormey	5	28	17.9

□ Heavy rain has put today's meeting at Chepstow in doubt. The card, which carries over £40,000 in added prize-money, has to pass a 7.30 inspection this morning. Rodger Farrant, the clerk of the course, said: "We had 7mm of rain over the weekend and torrential rain — an inch — overnight and a further half an inch this morning."

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

2.00 Rusk. 2.30 Purevalue. 3.00 Second Fiddle. 3.30 Ham N'Eggs. 4.00 Cattly Hang. 4.35 Hoh Express. 5.05 Sweet Lord.

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 CATTLY HANG.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) — SIS

2.00 HAREWOOD NOVICES HURDLE (£2,705: 2m) (15 runners)

1 3313 POLYDAMAS 74 (D,S) K Bailey 6-11-7 ... N Williamson
2 -112 ROBBO 27 (D,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-4 ... P Niven 130
3 5P/F BILLY BRIGHTON 81 M Sowersby 8-11-2 ... E Callaghan –
4 0 BUFFALO RIVER 13 K Morgan 6-11-2 ... A S Smith –
5 0B COURSE DOCTOR 5 G M Moore 6-11-2 ... J Callaghan –
6 21-6 FORESHORE MAN 18 (S) B Rothwell 7-11-2 ... B Storey –
7 -520 FOREVER NOBLE 22 (BF) M Hammond 5-11-2 ... R Garritty 122
8 PP0 POWER DON 15 F Coton 5-11-2 ... Mr A Sansome –
9 03 PREMIER CRU 74 M Todhunter 6-11-2 ... P Carberry –
10 022 RUSK 15 (BF) T Easterby 5-11-2 ... L Wyer 117
11 0 STORM VALLEY 116 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 6-11-2 ... D Parker –
12 PF0 ALPA'S HONOR 21 Mrs L Taylor 6-10-11 ... M Richards –
13 00 BRAVE MAN 11 M W Easterby 4-10-8 ... P Morris (5) –
14 23 DULAS BAY 111 M W Easterby 4-10-8 ... A Dobbin 112
15 IMPERIAL LINE 23F A Mulholland 4-10-8 ... D Bentley –

2-1 Polydamas, 5-2 Robbo, 7-1 Dulas Bay, 8-1 Rusk, 10-1 Forever Noble, Premier Cru, 12-1 Foreshore Man, 20-1 others.

2.30 SICKLINGHALL NOVICES CHASE (£3,834: 3m 1f) (11)

1 1F4F ORGAN RECITAL 12 (BF,S) O Brennan 9-11-9 ... M Brennan
2 5001 SILLY PET 15 (G) C Popson 8-11-9 ... N Bentley 95
3 FP/U ASK FOR BARNEY 68 B Rothwell 9-11-3 ... A S Smith –
4 15-2 BOBBY GRANT 25 (G,S) C Grant 7-11-3 ... P Niven 101
5 /122 CALLERNOY 27 (S) D Lamb 8-11-3 ... J Burke 106
6 6054 CASTLE RED 15 J Wade 7-11-3 ... K Johnson 94
7 2P5F FLAT TOP 39 (S) M W Easterby 7-11-3 ... A Dobbin 116
8 P233 GREVILLE AGAIN 25 (S) D Nicholson 9-11-3 ... A Maguire 117
9 844U MAMICA 18 M Dods 8-11-3 ... T Reed 97
10 -U22 PUREVALUE 79 (BF,F,G,S) M W Easterby 7-11-3 ... P Carberry 122
11 05PP QUIXALL CROSSETT 62 E Caine 13-11-3 ... Mr P Cosgrave (7) 80

3-1 Greville Again, 7-2 Organ Recital, 4-1 Bobby Grant, 5-1 Purevalue, 7-1 Callernoy, 10-1 Flat Top, 14-1 Silly Pet, Mamica, 20-1 others.

3.00 HOECHST ROUSSEL PANACUR EBF MARES N H NOVICES HURDLE (£3,125: 2m 4f 110yd) (19)

1 3341 HURST FLYER 22 (D,F,S) F Murtagh 6-11-0 ... A Dobbin
2 1152 DI MOTHER 20 (G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-0 ... A Maguire 107
3 1/F1 WYNYARD LADY 27 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 ... P Niven 105
4 0 CALL THE TUNE 46 R McDonald 6-10-7 ... J Supple –
5 /0-3 DISTANT HILLS 11 J Dodds 6-10-7 ... Mr L Temple (7) 100
6 0-06 FLOSS THE BOSS 22 Mrs J Brown 5-10-7 ... B Storey 85
7 F/3P GYPSY RACE 39 M W Easterby 8-10-7 ... P Carberry –
8 06 HONG KONG CLASSIC 8 R Fahey 5-10-7 ... L Wyer –
9 4F0 KERRISDALE 11 P Beaumont 6-10-7 ... B Grattan (5) 100
10 /3-P MADGE MCSPLASH 22 J Jefferson 6-10-7 ... E Callaghan –
11 0-FP MISS BARTHOLOMEW 22 M Hammond 6-10-7 ... R Garritty –
12 /U6- MORE TO LIFE 338 J Leigh 9-10-7 ... T J Murphy –
13 -400 OUR CAROL 39 J Parkes 6-10-7 ... M Newton (7) 89
14 3 PHEASANTS DELIGHT 27 Mrs M Reveley 6-10-7 ... G Lee –
15 05 POWDER PRISM 130 Mrs S Smith 7-10-7 ... R Guest –
16 0-0P SANTA BARBARA 64 C Grant 7-10-7 ... R Thornton –
17 P432 SECOND FIDDLE 11 O Brennan 6-10-7 ... M Brennan 100
18 04P4 SEPTEMBER BREEZE 16 (V) J O'Shea 7-10-7 ... Michael Brennan (3) 98
19 0/ SIT BACK 695 D Todd 7-10-7 ... A K Smith (7) –

3-1 Di Mother, 7-2 Wynyard Lady, 6-1 Hurst Flyer, Second Fiddle, 8-1 Distant Hills, 10-1 Pheasants Delight, 14-1 Gypsy Race, 16-1 others.

3.30 HELMSLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,825: 2m) (8)

1 -614 AVANTI EXPRESS 42 (S) C Egerton 8-12-0 ... N Williamson 112
2 11UP PENTLANDS FLYER 46 (F,G) J H Johnson 7-11-4 ... A Dobbin
3 -331 CUTHILL HOPE 32 (G,S) Mrs S Smith 7-11-4 ... R Guest 123
4 243P NON VINTAGE 11 (D,G,S) M Chapman 7-11-0 ... W Worthington 100
5 2F44 SHINING EDGE 8 (D,F,G) T Easterby 6-10-13 ... L Wyer 99
6 4123 HAM N'EGGS 32 (BF,CD,F,G,S) M Hammond 7-10-10 ... R Garritty 114
7 31U5 MINSTER GLORY 39 (D,F,G) M W Easterby 7-10-3 ... P Carberry 104
8 -055 TRIONA'S HOPE 8 E Caine 9-10-0 ... Mr P Cosgrave (7) 100

3-1 Pentlands Flyer, 4-1 Cuthill Hope, Shining Edge, Ham N'Eggs, 7-1 Avanti Express, 10-1 Non Vintage, 12-1 others.

4.00 EAST KESWICK HANDICAP CHASE (£4,988: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 -340 CHIEF MINISTER 32 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 9-11-11 ... R Garritty 122
2 -211 CATTLY HANG 25 (CD,G,S) J Leigh 8-11-8 ... A Dobbin
3 -111 TIDEBROOK 93 (G,S) K Bailey 8-11-3 ... N Williamson 122
4 2325 BRAMBLEBERRY 11 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-10-8 ... R Guest 129
5 /31- COUNTERBALANCE 344 (D,F,G,S) J McConnochie 11-10-7 ... A S Smith 90
6 2054 RUSTIC AIR 60 (D,F,G,S) J FitzGerald 11-10-3 ... P Carberry 100

2-1 Cattly Hang, 9-4 Tidebrook, 5-1 Brambleberry, 6-1 Rustic Air, 7-1 Chief Minister, 16-1 Counterbalance.

4.35 ASKHAM BRYAN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,408: 2m) (15)

1 631 HOH EXPRESS 29 (D,G) Mrs J Ramsden 6-11-12 ... N Williamson 120
2 33P1 MITHRAIC 23 (D,F,G) W Cunningham 6-11-6 ... R McGrath (3) 109
3 3222 FASSAN 39 M Hammond 6-11-5 ... R Garritty 114
4 -356 SAMANID 11 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 6-11-2 ... T Reed 106
5 4U03 ADVANCE EAST 15 (B,D,G) M Dods 6-10-12 ... A Dobbin 100
6 F333 KERNOF 117 (D,F) M Hammond 5-10-8 ... A Ede (7) 99
7 0063 BORLEAGH PILOT 34 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 7-10-6 ... D Parker 100
8 4-63 TAWAFIJ 14 (D,G) M Hammond 9-10-5 ... A Maguire 90
9 3253 TIP IT IN 18 (BF,D,G,S) A Smith 9-10-5 ... N Horrocks (5) 111
10 22/3 POLY AMANSHAA 14 (D,G) M Banks 6-10-5 ... M Richards 80
11 0035 SIGMA WIRELESS 18 (B,D,F,G) T Etherington 9-10-2 ... L Wyer 98
12 -5P0 WOODFIELD VISION 33 Mrs M Reveley 7-10-0 ... N Smith 80
13 6/05 CURRENT SPEECH 16 (CD,S) Mrs S Smith 7-10-0 ... G F Ryan (5) 87
14 /P60 ARIF 15 Mrs H Walton 6-10-0 ... Mr A Walton 84
15 4313 POINT DUTY 82 (D,G) F Murtagh 8-10-0 ... B Storey

6-1 Fassan, 7-1 Borleagh Pilot, Tip It In, 8-1 Hoh Express, Tawafij, Poly Amanshaa, 10-1 Samanid, Advance East, Kernof, 12-1 others.

5.05 MICKLETHWAITE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,915: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 1P344 EXECUTIVE DESIGN 15 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-12-0 ... P Niven
2 -123 DRAMATIST 247 (G) Miss M Rowland 7-11-1 ... P Midgley (3) 126
3 -302 SWEET LORD 25 M Bradstock 7-10-5 ... R Thornton 134
4 /1-P EUPHONIC 19 (F,G) Mrs L Williamson 8-10-0 ... B Storey 97
5 -232 APOLLO'S DAUGHTER 18 (F,G) J Goulding 10-10-0 ... L Cooper (7) 109

5-4 Sweet Lord, 5-2 Executive Design, 5-1 Apollo's Daughter, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Leigh, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; K Bailey, 4 from 14, 28.6%; D Nicholson, 17 from 69, 24.6%; T Easterby, 23 from 95, 24.2%; O Brennan, 6 from 30, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: L Wyer, 35 winners from 145 rides, 24.1%; P Carberry, 14 from 61, 23.0%; P Niven, 33 from 149, 22.1%; A Maguire, 19 from 92, 20.7%; R Guest, 16 from 79, 20.3%; R McGrath, 4 from 22, 18.2%.

□ Cheval De Guerre will miss the Royal & SunAlliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, Kim Bailey revealed yesterday. "He slipped up on the road and has a nasty cut on his shoulder," the Lambourn trainer said.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.50 Browning. 2.20 Faym. 2.50 Elite Hope. 3.20 Chewit. 3.50 Gulf Shaadi. 4.20 Indian Splendour. 4.55 Bathe In Light.

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

1.50 CAPRICORN MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: £3,274: 1m 100yd) (9 runners)

1 4 HILLS GAMBLE 14 P Bevan 8-3-12 ... N Carlisle 3
2 CHESTER WREN 41J M Middleton 4-9-7 ... R Lappin 7
3 SERRATE D Shaw 4-9-7 ... J Fanning 1
4 45-2 BROWNING 20 Lord Huntingdon 3-8-8 ... W Ryan 5
5 0- IMPERIAL PRINCE 297 K McAuliffe 3-8-8 ... J F Egan 8
6 53- SHAANDI ROMANCE 184 M Bell 3-8-8 ... M Fenton 2
7 42 LADY JAZZ 7 T Naughton 3-8-3 ... R Ffrench 4
8 05 SMART 7 M Prescott 3-8-3 ... Claire Lund (7) 6
9 SPRING BEACON C Allen 3-8-3 ... Martin Dwyer 9

7-4 Browning, 2-1 Shaandi Romance, 4-1 Lady Jazz, 12-1 Smart, Spring Beacon, 14-1 Imperial Prince, 25-1 Hills Gamble, 33-1 others.

2.20 CAPRICORN MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: £3,258: 1m 100yd) (8)

1 0 CRAFTBOOK MARCHESA 14 J Bradley 4-9-7 ... S Drowne 3
2 -324 FAYM 9 (V) J Wharton 4-9-7 ... A McCarthy (5) 4
3 HIMALAYAN LILY J Pickering 4-9-7 ... N Carlisle 7
4 000- AMBIGUOUS 141 D Loder 3-8-8 ... S Sanders 2
5 0-4 BLAZING BILLY 22 C Dwyer 3-8-8 ... J Quinn 8
6 000- DARING NEWS 150 D O'Neill 3-8-8 ... N Adams 2
7 45 HEVER FEVER 6 T Naughton 3-8-3 ... R Ffrench 5
8 300- LADY RACHEL 131 J Eyre 3-8-3 ... T Williams 1

4-5 Ambiguous, 4-1 Faym, 7-1 Hever Fever, 8-1 Blazing Billy, 12-1 Daring News, 14-1 Lady Rachel, 33-1 Himalayan Lily, 50-1 Craftbook Marchesa.

2.50 ARIES CLAIMING STAKES (£2,285: 7f) (11)

1 1131 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 7 (V,CD) P Evans 4-9-3 ... A McCarthy (5) 5
2 01/5 ORTOLAN 7 (D,F,G,S) J Eyre 5-9-3 ... R Lappin 7
3 2204 THEATRE MAGIC 11 (CD) D Shaw 5-8-13 ... J Fanning 9
4 d1146 ELITE HOPE 7 (CD,G) N Tinkler 6-8-12 ... Dean McKeown 2
5 400- WELL TO WIN 123 (BF,C) P Murphy 4-8-8 ... S Drowne 11
6 3204 AXEMAN 11 (F) N Littmoden 6-8-7 ... A Daly (3) 4
7 0535 C-HARRY 21 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 4-8-7 ... F Lynch 1
8 0-00 YOUNG BENSON 25 (B,CD,F) T Wall 6-8-7 ... S Sanders 6
9 000- LACHESIS 82J (S) R McGhin 5-8-6 ... Dale Gibson 8
10 310- CAUDILLO 76 (CD,S) Mrs P Duffield 5-8-4 ... J Quinn 3
11 -000 EWAR SUNRISE 18 (D,G) K C-Brown 5-7-12 ... L Charnock 10

9-4 Italian Symphony, 5-1 Elite Hope, Caudillo, 7-1 Theatre Magic, 9-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Loder, 10 winners from 29 runners, 34.5%; M Bell, 16 from 67, 23.9%; M Prescott, 28 from 118, 23.7%; Lord Huntingdon, 22 from 94, 23.4%; M Johnston, 57 from 257, 22.2%.

JOCKEYS: O Peam, 6 winners from 33 rides, 18.2%; R Ffrench, 6 from 36, 16.7%; J Egan, 15 from 92, 16.3%; W Ryan, 7 from 45, 15.6%; G Carter, 33 from 229, 14.4%; R Lappin, 10 from 72, 13.9%.

3.20 TAURUS CONDITIONS STAKES (£4,902: 7f) (7)

1 531- CHEWIT 88 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 6-9-4 ... C Lowther (3) 1
2 40-3 PRINCE OF INDIA 27 (F,G) Lord Huntingdon 6-9-4 ... W Ryan 3
3 000- RAKIS 169 (CD,F,S) Mrs L Stubbs 8-9-4 ... J F Egan 7
4 60-4 SILVERING 27 (BF,G,S) R Cowell 6-9-4 ... G Carter 4
5 1 INVERGORDON 11 (C) J Eustace 3-8-6 ... J Tate 2
6 1 ITHADTOBEYOU 18 P Cole 3-8-6 ... C Rutter 6
7 2-35 CLASSY CLEO 7 (F,G,S) P Evans 3-8-1 ... A McCarthy (5) 5

7-4 Chewit, 7-2 Classy Cleo, 13-2 Prince Of India, 7-1 Rakis, Ithadtobeyou, 10-1 Silvering, Invergordon.

3.50 SHROPSHIRE GALVANISERS HANDICAP (£6,808: 1m 1f 79yd) (9)

1 006- CASHMERE LADY 109 (C,F,G) J Eyre 6-10-0 ... O Pears 5
2 2232 PLAN FOR PROFIT 4 (F,G) M Johnston 4-9-10 ... Dean McKeown 1
3 40-4 YAROB 15 (BF,F) D Loder 5-9-10 ... G Carter 7
4 41-6 GULF SHAADI 11 (C,F,G) E Alston 6-9-10 ... S Sanders 9
5 53-2 QUEEN'S PAGEANT 21 (B,S) J Spearing 4-9-9 ... S Drowne 6
6 320- BARDON HILL BOY 214 (BF,CD,F) B Hanbury 6-9-7 ... J Stack 8
7 0361 SUALTACH 11 (CD,F,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-0 ... A McCarthy (5) 3
8 1411 FAILED TO HIT 8 (B,C,F) N Littmoden 5-8-7 (6ex) ... P Fessey (3) 4
9 -034 PERPETUAL LIGHT 13 (V,CD) J J Quinn 5-8-1 ... L Charnock 2

7-2 Plan For Profit, 4-1 Gulf Shaadi, Sualtach, 13-2 Queen's Pageant, 8-1 Yarob, 10-1 Bardon Hill Boy, Failed To Hit, 12-1 others.

4.20 AQUARIUS SELLING HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £1,830: 5f) (10)

1 16-0 SANS RIVALE 61 (D,G) J Eyre 9-7 ... T Williams 7
2 0-00 BEECHWOOD QUEST 37 (D,D) B Rothwell 9-1 ... L Charnock 8
3 5030 ORIEL GIRL 27 (B,D,F,S) G L Moore 9-0 ... S Sanders 2
4 -031 SING FOR ME 21 (CD) R Hollinshead 8-11 ... R Ffrench 4
5 40-4 INDIAN SPLENDOUR 21 R Guest 8-11 ... C Lowther (3) 10
6 0-05 MYSTICAL RIDGE 42 M Dods 8-10 ... A Clark 1
7 000- PRECISELY 103 (B) J Wharton 8-6 ... F Norton 8
8 65-0 GOOD FOR YOU 14 (B) D Moffatt 7-10 ... J Quinn 5
9 -060 SUPER IMPOSE 16 (D) John Berry 7-10 ... G Bardwell 6
10 0004 KANTONE 7 (V) P Evans 7-10 ... A McCarthy (5) 3

7-4 Indian Splendour, 3-4 Sing For Me, 7-1 Oriel Girl, 8-1 Kantone, 12-1 Sans Rivale, 14-1 Beechwood Quest, 16-1 Super Impose, 20-1 others.

4.55 GEMINI FILLIES HANDICAP (£4,065: 1m 4f) (7)

1 -412 BATHE IN LIGHT 16 (BF,CD) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-10 ... S Sanders 5
2 31-3 AEOLINA 16 S Kettlewell 4-8-5 ... P Fredericks (7) 4
3 2631 PALACEGATE JO 11 (CD,G,S) D Chapman 7-8-4 ... L Charnock 7
4 0-34 RAINDEER QUEST 18J (F,G) J Eyre 6-8-3 ... T Williams 6
5 -464 BLUE HOPPER 11 M Quinn 4-8-0 ... A McCarthy (5) 2
6 5355 SIDNEY THE KIDNEY 9 M Ryan 4-7-10 ... G Bardwell 1
7 00-0 NOBLE CANONIRE 25 D Windle 6-7-10 ... Joanna Badger (7) 3

9-4 Palacegate Jo, 5-2 Bathe In Light, 5-1 Aeolina, Raindeer Quest, 8-1 Blue Hopper, 12-1 Sidney The Kidney, 25-1 Noble Canonire.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wetherby: 3.00 September Breeze. Wolverhampton: 2.20 Faym. 3.50 Queen's Pageant. 4.20 Precisely, Good For You.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Leicester

Going: good

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Master Mario (A Thornton, 14-1); 2, Super Rapier (12-1); 3, Bagalino (100-30); 4, Swan Street (14-1). Peptist 3-1 fav. 16 ran. 9l, sh hd. R Alner. Tote: £12.90; £3.80, £2.10, £1.70, £2.40. DF: £38.00. Trio: £127.80. CSF: £150.71. Tricast: £547.36.

2.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Debt Of Honor (R Johnson, 20-1); 2, Fatalistic (11-8 fav); 3, Gold Pigeon (12-1). 9 ran. NR: Some Day Soon. 8l, 26l. R Lee. Tote: £24.30; £3.50, £1.30, £2.40. DF: £48.90. CSF: £45.23. Tricast: £336.96. Trio: £174.90.

3.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Who Am I (A Thornton, 11-2); 2, Winnow (2-1 fav); 3, Camera Boy (11-1). 10 ran. 7l, 19l. R Alner. Tote: £5.00; £1.90, £2.30, £2.10. DF: £5.80. Trio: £35.40. CSF: £15.75. Tricast: £107.57.

3.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Maurachas (D Leahy, 5-1); 2, Ramallah (2-7 fav); 3, Jemaro (33-1). 6 ran. 10l, dist. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £6.90; £2.70, £1.10. DF: £3.30. CSF: £12.19.

4.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Shekels (G Bradley, 13-8); 2, Stompin (5-4 fav); 3, Crockhamhill (40-1). 7 ran. NR: Trouvaille. 18l, 26l. C Brooks. Tote: £2.50; £1.70, £1.60. DF: £1.70. CSF: £3.41.

4.50 (2m 1f ch) 1, Play Games (L Harvey, 12-1); 2, Dear Do (9-4 jt-fav); 3, The Carrot Man (9-4 jt-fav). 5 ran. NR: Flaming Miracle, Sleazey. 9l, 7l. R Lee. Tote: £11.60; £1.90, £1.80. DF: £11.40. CSF: £35.84.

Placepot: £16.90. Quadpot: £2.60.

Catterick

Going: good

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Springfield Rhyme (Mr S Durack, 50-1); 2, Down The Yard (11-2); 3, Jilly Beveled (100-1). Alcalali (I) 6-4 fav. 11 ran. 1l, 3l. S Gollings. Tote: £55.70; £14.50, £1.80, £8.10. DF: £75.90. CSF: £277.98. Tricast: £22,415.98. Trio: £234.30 (part won; pool of £297.11 carried forward to 2.40 Chepstow today).

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, Count Karmusid (P Carberry, 6-4 fav); 2, To-Day To-Day (5-2); 3, Arctic Affair (9-1). 10 ran. 19l, 7l. F Murphy. Tote: £3.00; £1.10, £1.10, £3.70. DF: £3.50. Trio: £10.00. CSF: £5.71.

3.00 (2m 3f ch) 1, Royal Crimson (R Garritty, 8-1); 2, Baliewhidden (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Last Try (5-2 jt-fav). 9 ran. NR: Fryup Satellite. 6l, 10l. M Hammond. Tote: £10.20; £1.60, £2.00, £1.90. DF: £34.20. Trio: £23.60. CSF: £25.91.

3.30 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Crabbie's Pride (R Guest, 7-2 fav); 2, Royal Hand (16-1); 3, Cromaboo Crown (16-1). 15 ran. NR: Touiston Lady. 8l, 16l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £3.70; £1.80, £4.60, £3.90. DF: £78.20. CSF: £60.32. Tricast: £776.13. Trio: £272.50 (part won; pool of £53.75 carried forward to 2.40 Chepstow today).

4.00 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, What Jim Wants (R McGrath, 7-2 fav); 2, Cypress Avenue (9-2); 3, Ardenbar (7-1). 11 ran. NR: Arrogant Heir, Gale Ahead, Recruitment, Thirty Below. 2½l, dist. J J O'Neill. Tote: £5.70; £2.30, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £7.50. Trio: £17.70. CSF: £19.59. Tricast: £100.39.

4.30 (2m ch) 1, Prince Of Saints (R Garritty, 2-1 fav); 2, Kildrummy Castle (3-1); 3, Moss Pageant (5-2). 6 ran. 6l, 6l. M Hammond. Tote: £2.90; £1.70, £1.10. DF: £3.50. CSF: £8.11.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, Petersen House (T Hogg, 11-4); 2, Autby (33-1); 3, Gem Of Holly (50-1). Noshinannikin 7-4 fav. 9 ran. NR: Chase The Ace, Easby Blue, Over The Solway, Tell Me Another. 12l, dist. G Moore. Tote: £4.80; £1.10, £7.40, £9.60. DF: £104.20. Trio: £224.70. CSF: £81.15. Noshinannikin finished first, but after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified and placed last.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,955.22 carried forward to Chepstow today).

Placepot: £16.90. Quadpot: £3.70.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Foxtrot Romeo (4.10 Chepstow)

Foxtrot Romeo is a fine jumper who loves soft ground and goes well fresh. With Charlie Brooks's string beginning to recapture their form, he can make a winning seasonal reappearance.

NB: Sadler's Realm 4.45 Chepstow

Lingfield Park

Going: slow

2.10 (1m 5f) 1, Harik (Mr I Mongan, 9-2 fav); 2, Evezio Rufo (7-1); 3, Quiet Arch (7-1). 15 ran. 5l, 2½l. G L Moore. Tote: £8.30; £3.20, £2.80, £2.50. DF: £29.10. Trio: £38.50. CSF: £34.46. Tricast: £212.44.

2.40 (5f) 1, Mysticel (A McCarthy, 4-1); 2, Palo Blanco (8-1); 3, Tangerine Flyer (7-4 fav). 9 ran. Hd, sh hd. Mrs L Stubbs. Tote: £4.10; £1.30, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £69.80. Trio: £11.60. CSF: £32.71.

3.10 (1m 2f) 1, Some Might Say (Dean McKeown, 3-1); 2, Highbury Legend (12-1); 3, Severity (1-2 fav). 6 ran. 18l, 11l. M Johnston. Tote: £3.60; £1.70, £3.00. DF: £7.30. CSF: £34.47.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, Herr Trigger (J Quinn, 9-2 fav); 2, Chairmans Choice (5-1); 3, Poker School (25-1). 11 ran. 1½l, 10l. J Seargill. Tote: £7.40; £2.40, £1.60, £5.40. DF: £9.40. CSF: £26.03. Tricast: £480.19. Trio: £324.40.

4.10 (2m) 1, Philosophic (A McCarthy, 6-4 fav); 2, Haigh Of Fame (20-1); 3, Flying Colours (12-1). 14 ran. Nk, 10l. Mrs L Jewell. Tote: £2.80; £1.10, £9.00, £3.80. DF: £103.60. CSF: £37.78. Tricast: £262.26. Trio: £292.60 (part won; pool of £214.33 carried forward to 2.40 Chepstow today).

4.40 (1m) 1, Without Friends (A Clark, 9-1); 2, Amico (11-4 fav); 3, Miss Skye (6-1). 8 ran. 1½l, 3l. J Pitch-Hayes. Tote: £10.20; £1.90, £1.90, £2.90. DF: £12.40. CSF: £32.93.

Placepot: £54.30. Quadpot: £18.90.

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FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European Cup
Quarter-final, first leg
AS Monaco v Manchester United (7.45)
Bayer Leverkusen v Real Madrid (7.45)
Bayern Munich v Borussia Dortmund (7.45)
Juventus v Dynamo Kiev (7.45)

FA Carling Premiership
Leeds v Tottenham (7.45)

Nationwide League
First division
Norwich v Birmingham (7.45)
Nottingham Forest v Sunderland (7.45)
Port Vale v Tranmere (7.45)
QPR v Middlesbrough (7.45)
Wolverhampton v Stoke (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
Second division
Stranraer v Brechin
Third division
East Stirling v Queen's Park

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Sittingbourne v Rothwell (7.45). Southern division: Fareham v Bashley. Midland division: Corby v Redditch; Solihull Borough v VS Rugby.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Winsford v Alfreton. First division: Great Harwood v Gretna; Whitby v Netherfield. League Cup: Fourth-round replay: Gainsborough v Bishop Auckland.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Third division: Harlow v Tring.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division (2.0 unless stated): Luton v Wimbledon (at Hitchin); Millwall v Oxford Utd; Swindon v Chelsea (7.15); Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton (at Leyton Orient); West Ham v Ipswich (at Southend, 7.45).
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division (7.0): Coventry v Notts County; Manchester City v Leicester (at Altrincham FC); Oldham v West Bromwich. Second division: Barnsley v Shrewsbury; Blackpool v Rochdale; Rotherham v Bradford; Sheffield Utd v Lincoln (at Don Valley Stadium); Wrexham v Burnley. Third division: Newcastle v Chesterfield (at Gateshead); Scunthorpe v Scarborough; Walsall v Chester.
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Highworth v North Leigh; Tuffley v Hallen.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Guisborough v Billingham Town; Stockton v Easington CWM.
ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Southam v Massey Ferguson; Studley BKL v Bilston CC.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: St Helens v Glossop North End.
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bustleholme v Walsall Wood.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Brigg Town.
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Caernarfon.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University v Royal Navy (7.15).
HOSPITALS CUP: Final: Imperial Medics v Guy's (at London Welsh, 2.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION (all 7.30): Featherstone Rovers v Dewsbury Rams; Hull Kingston Rovers v Widnes Vikings; Swinton Lions v Whitehaven Warriors.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Thames Valley v London Towers (8.0).
BOWLS: English women's indoor national championships (at Yarmouth).
BOXING: English ABA finals (at National Indoor Arena, Birmingham).

Making a pitch that results in the perfect match

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

Cricket experts are agreed on two matters: first, that the past three Test matches between England and West Indies have produced the most riveting cricket possible and, second, they have been played on extremely poor pitches. Bad pitches, in fact.

It is perfectly possible, in a series that is relentlessly probing the psychological make-up of two teams each with their fair share of troubles, that England will win the next match, leaving us with an all-to-play-for sixth. It is perfectly possible that, in terms of thrills and turnarounds and shifting advantage, we are in the middle of the greatest series ever played.

> 'It is possible we are seeing the greatest series played'

Have these genuine sporting pleasures come our way in spite of the badness of the pitches? Certainly not. A cricket match, most especially one between equally matched sides, *is* the pitch. Or at least, how players respond to it. This has been a magnificent series: clearly, then, it has been played on magnificent pitches.

Or do you prefer a Test match played on what is generally termed a Good Pitch? The last time that England played in Antigua, they played on a Good Pitch. It was so good that the match was tedious, meaningless and drawn. Both teams scored 593 in the first innings and, er, that's it. In all, 15 wickets fell in the match and Lara gourmandised his meaningless 375.

A Good Pitch, a bad match. It was Good Pitches that ruined the last series when West Indies came to England. For a while, it was an absolutely riveting series, 2-2 after four Tests. But Good Pitches killed it. The last two matches were the dullest of dull draws. Batsmen gorged, especially Lara, bowlers toiled. It was great batting: it was poor sport.

All over the world, groundsmen are trying to make Good Pitches. It is fortunate for cricket-watchers that this is a fiendishly difficult task. If the groundsmen of the world all succeeded simultaneously in their aim, it would be the death of cricket.

Odd fact: you hardly every get a *Good Pitch or a bad match at* Headingley. Odder fact: it is the Headingley groundsman who is always in trouble.

Who, then, is a Good Pitch actually good for? Obviously, it is good for batsmen — and that is where this confusion about Goodness and Badness all springs from, for cricket is the most English of games. That is to say, it is about Class. Batsmen represent the rich and privileged, bowlers the toiling masses and back in the days of gentlemen and players, by and large gentlemen were batters, players bowlers.

Naturally, in the real world, the rich stay rich at the expense of the poor. From the point of view of the rich, everything that keeps society stable is Good. Everything that tends to shake society is Bad. That is how political and economic expediency get confused with morality.

Here, enshrined in the customs of an arcane game, we find the same confusion. What is good for General Motors is good for the United States: what is good for batsmen is good for cricket. Of course, both statements are nonsense.

Good cricket is not about the balance of bat and ball, it is about their volatile and perpetually changing relationship over five days, over the three months of a Test series. One day, Lara is stroking his team to victory; a few days later, Cork is mowing down West Indian batsmen for fun. One week, Walsh is bowling murderously; the next, Thorpe is dispatching him to all corners.

> 'The pitch was so good the game was tedious'

There is ancient notion that it is a groundsman's job to produce a shirt-front. This was certainly a wise move when batsmen were paying your wages, but this archaic view remains in place so that to prepare a pitch that suits bowlers is seen at best as incompetence, at worst a form of cheating.

Batsmen shall prosper, that is what cricket means. Every Law of the game perpetuates that notion: benefit of the doubt, no-balls, bumpers, padding up. But there is one term that is used grudgingly and not all that frequently and seldom without irony and that is Sporting Pitch. That is to say, a pitch that gives the bowlers a little encouragement, but on which very good batsmen can make runs. Like Headingley; like Port of Spain.

It is a pitch on which bat and ball have a volatile and shifting relationship, a pitch on which the best of cricket, of sport, is possible. Good Pitches, like the class system, have their place in the dustbins of history.

Chairman resigns in protest at recall of Wasim

BY SIMON WILDE AND IVO TENNANT

WASIM AKRAM'S unexpected call to join his Pakistan colleagues on their tour of southern Africa has caused as much bewilderment in his own country as elsewhere — not least among the national selectors supposedly charged with taking such decisions. Salim Altaf, the chairman of selectors, has resigned in protest.

Responsibility for Wasim's restoration has been placed at the door of Khalid Mahmood, recently elevated to the position of chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), who, it is suspected, took the decision against all advice.

After Wasim led his country to a crushing defeat of West Indies late last year, it appeared to be a formality that he would go to South Africa as captain, but failure in a one-day tournament in Sharjah caused renewed whispers about match-fixing and Wasim to grow disenchanted with captaincy. However, it was his suspect fitness that encouraged Salim and his fellow selectors to overlook him altogether.

"Wasim's call-up has caused controversy, but that is his doing, not the board's," Majid Khan, the chief executive of the PCB, said yesterday. "He pulled out of a tournament in Bangladesh in January because he was unfit and, at the time the team was being chosen for South Africa, failed to complete a four-day march for PIA [Pakistan International Airlines, his club in Pakistan]. The selectors felt that if he could not do that, how would he survive a three-month tour?

"There is a feeling here that Wasim remains under a cloud. There is also surprise at his call-up. After all, there are 16 fit players in South Africa, five of them fast bowlers, the younger players have done well and the team has just won without him. What is the point?"

Wasim, who has been in England preparing for his first season as captain of Lancashire, is expected to be in the side for the third and final Test match against South Africa at Port Elizabeth, which starts on Friday. Pakistan already drew the first two Tests in the series. They will then play two Tests in Zimbabwe.

There was no sign of Wasim in South Africa yesterday. The captain and vice-captain claimed that he would be coming today. The tour party's management simply had no knowledge of his movements.

CRICKET

England coach refuses to dwell on defeat

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

THERE have been times when defeat has had a deep and distorting effect on David Lloyd, when his expressions — facial and verbal — have betrayed anger, resentment or recrimination. Not yesterday. The England coach was bright-eyed at the breakfast-table, bantering about music and horse racing in such a way that it was almost possible to forget that his team had just lost a Test match by 242 runs.



Atherton: short of runs

Highly-strung and passionate, Lloyd would make a poor poker player. The bluff is not his style and even his silences are loaded with meaning. This does not mean, however, that his management methods are one-dimensional and his chipper mood in Georgetown yesterday was an interesting variation on a theme.

When England suffered their first defeat of this gripping series, in Trinidad early last month, Lloyd took a night to consider his tactics, then calculatingly criticised two members of his side. He waited for the reaction before calling a team meeting where every player was encouraged to air grievances. It was unconventional management, but the next Test was won.

Here in Guyana, he sees things differently. The defeat was far heavier than in Trinidad — indeed, there was never a moment when England seemed capable of winning — but it has not seemed so harsh, so hard to take. Lloyd, for one, is philosophical.

To his way of thinking, England were in the equivalent position of a man tied to a railway line with the express approaching. After losing the toss on a dustbowl of a pitch, they were always going to need great strength and ingenuity to escape the onrushing menace of Ambrose and Walsh. They did not show enough of either.

"The appreciable difference in the pace and height of their bowlers is something we have to live with, but it was highlighted on that pitch. I feel both teams got their selection right for the conditions, but they exploited them far better than we did," Lloyd said.

"While that is disappointing, it's not so surprising. Alec Stewart will tell you he's never faced Ambrose bowling quicker than he did here. The big two are a handful and, on this occasion, they were too much for us."

Ambrose and Walsh are unarguably intimidating opponents and their impact on the series has been greater than anyone could logically have anticipated while both were considering retirement back in January. Nevertheless, it is worth saying that their combined tally of 37 wickets in the series is exactly matched by Fraser and Headley, of England. The difference between the teams is not them alone; here, for instance, it was in the batting.

Lloyd would be unwise to sweep all the evidence under the team-room carpet and he knows it. This was not a good pitch, but neither did it make batting impossible and scores of 170 and 137 were unacceptably low. England's highest total in the series is a meagre 258, their average runs per wicket a revealing 19.43. Atherton, Hussain and Thorpe — three of the four senior players — have one half-century between them.

> 'Innings of 170 and 137 were unacceptably low'

"We didn't play at our maximum, of course we didn't," Lloyd admitted. "A few of our batters have not made many runs. With players of their calibre, you expect a significant innings to be just around the corner and, if we'd won the toss, I'd like to think we'd have seen one or two. There is no moping. Straight after the game, as soon as we were back in the dressing-room, I was at pains to say to the fellows that this game is finished, forgotten. We just look forward now. Everyone in the team would agree we are every bit as good as them and the mood is of rolling up the sleeves and getting back at them in Barbados."

In the eight days before the series resumes in Bridgetown, talk will be dominated, as ever, by the shape of the two teams. Lloyd says he has not even thought about it yet, which naturally is nonsense, and that the players will probably not practice again until Friday, the eve of a three-day game against Barbados.

He did offer a few clues. "I would think all the batsmen would want to play in the Barbados game," he ventured, suggesting that Atherton's plan to take a match off had already fallen victim to his run shortage. Then, casting further ahead, Lloyd added: "The pitches there are usually a bit quicker, so it's a fair bet that we might revert to our original balance with three seamers in the next Test."

What this would mean for Jack Russell is a matter of fevered conjecture. The wicketkeeping argument has often polarised opinion. Right now, with Russell struggling so painfully, even those of us who have continually supported his inclusion are finding it hard to justify.

The quirky positions he adopts, his body pointing towards extra cover, must surely help explain his limitations on the leg side, but the scruffiness of his routine glovework is now impossible to ignore.

There is mitigation. Because the pitches here are so fickle in bounce, it is much the most difficult place in the world to keep wicket and David Williams has been no tidier flor West Indies. Yet, with a mere 49 runs in the series, Russell no longer even has his batting to promote his cause.

Lloyd remains reluctant to jettison him and it is easy to see why. "It's a hell of an event keeping wicket here. It's hot and uncomfortable. Do we tell Stewart to cope with that, then ask him to go out and open the batting, expecting him to make a hundred? That's the overriding consideration."

Four years ago, Stewart made a century in each innings of the Barbados Test and England won gloriously. He was not keeping wicket. That thought will lodge in many a mind over the coming days, as England seek a way back into this series.



Lloyd: looking forward

Jack refuses to act the rabbit

Simon Wilde explains why the game's tailend charlies are *proving far more* difficult to dislodge

KIERAN DOHERTY



Ramnarine swings productively to leg during his last-wicket partnership with Bishop, which yielded 70 runs and frustrated England for 105 minutes

If Michael Atherton is having difficulty sleeping after England's frustrating defeat by West Indies in Georgetown, there might be an obvious reason. Rather than counting sheep, the England captain could be forgiven for clocking up the rabbits — or tailend batsmen — who have cost his side dear in recent times.

While it would be wrong to attribute England's reversal in the fourth Test match solely to the tenth-wicket stand between Ian Bishop and Dinanath Ramnarine, there is no doubt that their combined resistance — which lasted for 105 minutes, survived numerous escapes during its course and yielded 70 vital runs — set the tone for the fourth day on Monday. England were later dismissed inside two sessions for 137.

Though Bishop has two first-class centuries to his name, Ramnarine, whose career average before this winter was 10.27, is a novice and should have presented England with few difficulties. But, as has happened of late overseas, Atherton found himself thwarted by a resourceful No 11.

Twelve months ago, it was Danny Morrison, who boasted the largest number of noughts to his name in Test history, who held him up for nearly three hours in Auckland before New Zealand, safe from defeat, brought an end to England's misery by declaring. When Morrison first joined Nathan Astle, New Zealand led by only 11 runs.

A year earlier, the unlikely heroics of Paul Adams, the South Africa No 11, in the final Test at Cape Town indubitably cost England the series, his audacious last-wicket stand of 73 with David Richardson giving his side a significant first-innings lead of 91 in a low-scoring match. Adams, then 18, had previously faced only 16 balls in his brief first-class career.

In fact, it is not only the the England bowlers who are having trouble polishing off the tailenders. Stubborn and productive lower-order stands are no longer uncommon in Test cricket and, in the past five months, a South African pair — Pat Symcox and Mark Boucher, at Johannesburg — has set a record for the ninth wicket and two Pakistanis equalled the highest partnership for the tenth wicket.

"In the old days, tailenders did not sell their wickets as dearly as they do now," Clive Radley, the MCC head coach, said yesterday. "Nine, ten and jack did not seem to mind going out and having a slog and finishing up with a career average in single figures. Now they have coaches on their backs telling them to get their heads down.

"I think a lot of it is in the mind, rather than any intrinsic improvement in the quality of the players. I spend more time with tailenders on their batting than coaches used to and the typical tailender expects to work harder on his technique and hold up an end."



Morrison: duck record

One of the strategies that modern Test sides adopt is to assign a tailender to a specialist batsman, whose responsibility it is to bring on his charge's batting.

Steve Waugh has achieved notable success with the once-hapless Glenn McGrath for Australia and it is a policy that England are pursuing in the West Indies.

Cynics might question the wisdom of this, but there have been benefits. Phil Tufnell, a greatly improved No 11, remained at the crease for more than an hour in the first innings at Georgetown and added 30 with Robert Croft.

"There seems to be a general realisation that 30 or 40 runs can be rustled up at the end of the innings, which can turn out to be the difference between winning and losing," Radley added. "It is obvious really and should have been thought about a long time ago."

South Africa possess perhaps the most capable lower order in the world, for, in the past four years, they have put together five last-wicket stands worth more than 70, three of them involving Allan Donald, although he is only one of several useful last men who have decided to sell their wickets more dearly.



Adams: batting novice

Sussex plan to break new ground

SUSSEX are considering a ground-share with Brighton and Hove Albion in an attempt to resolve the Nationwide League third division club's plight since they sold the Goldstone Ground two years ago.

Brighton have held talks with Sussex about setting up a new multisports site including a football stadium and cricket ground. Brighton are at present playing at Priestfield, the home of Gillingham, which is 73 miles away, and are trying to gain consent to switch to the athletics stadium at Withdean, Brighton, as a temporary measure for next season.

Tony Pigott, the Sussex chief executive, said: "We have been having meetings with Brighton and the local council could also be a major player. It's a long way down the line at this stage, but we are looking at all the various options. Sussex have ruled out the possibility of carrying out improvements at Hove, where they have played for more than a century.

Alan Butcher has been appointed the Surrey Second XI coach. Butcher, 44, was on the staff at the Oval from 1972 to 1986 as an opening batsman, before joining Glamorgan where he became captain. He played for England once, against India in 1979.

Butcher, father of Mark, the Surrey and England batsman, has recently been working as the Essex Second XI coach. He will also work with the Surrey youth development team during the winter.

Mike Denness, the former Kent and England captain, has been re-elected to the county's general committee for another three-year term, along with Derek Ufton, the cricket committee chairman, and Peter Edgley, the former president.

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM GEORGETOWN

West Indies won toss

WEST INDIES: First Innings

S L Campbell c Russell b Headley	10 (70min, 48 balls, 1 four)
S C Williams c Thorpe b Fraser	13 (31min, 20 balls, 1 six, 1 four)
*B C Lara c Thorpe b Croft	93 (256min, 201 balls, 2 sixes, 13 fours)
S Chanderpaul c Thorpe b Fraser	118 (385min, 263 balls, 1 six, 15 fours)
C L Hooper c Hussain b Headley	43 (141min, 78 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)
J C Adams lbw b Tufnell	28 (109min, 78 balls, 2 fours)
†D Williams c Croft b Headley	0 (17min, 15 balls)
I R Bishop c Butcher b Croft	14 (80min, 64 balls, 2 fours)
C E L Ambrose c Headley b Tufnell	0 (7min, 6 balls)
C A Walsh not out	3 (13min, 9 balls)
D Ramnarine c Russell b Croft	0 (6min, 2 balls)
Extras (b 4, lb 14, nb 12)	30
Total (128.1 overs, 564min)	352

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16 (Campbell 0), 2-38 (Lara 6), 3-197 (Chanderpaul 68), 4-295 (Chanderpaul 112), 5-316 (Adams 10), 6-320 (Adams 14), 7-347 (Bishop 12), 8-349 (Bishop 14), 9-352 (Walsh 3).

BOWLING: Headley 31-7-80-3; Fraser 33-9-77-2; Butcher 3-0-15-0; Croft 36.1-9-89-3; Tufnell 25-10-63-2.

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton c Lara b Ambrose	0 (13min, 10 balls)
A J Stewart c D Williams b Walsh	20 (66min, 74 balls, 4 fours)
M A Butcher lbw b Bishop	11 (54min, 42 balls, 1 four)
N Hussain lbw b Walsh	11 (75min, 52 balls, 1 four)
G P Thorpe c D Williams b Ramnarine	10 (72min, 44 balls, 1 four)
M R Ramprakash not out	64 (221min, 160 balls, 7 fours)
†R C Russell lbw b Ramnarine	0 (8min, 4 balls)
R D B Croft c Lara b Hooper	26 (116min, 91 balls, 4 fours)
D W Headley c D Williams b Hooper	0 (3min, 4 balls)
A R C Fraser c Lara b Ramnarine	0 (9min, 8 balls)
P C R Tufnell c Bishop b Ambrose	2 (63min, 31 balls)
Extras (b 10, lb 2, nb 14)	26
Total (87.1 overs, 377min)	170

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Stewart 0), 2-37 (Stewart 17), 3-41 (Hussain 1), 4-65 (Thorpe 9), 5-73 (Ramprakash 5), 6-75 (Ramprakash 7), 7-139 (Ramprakash 38), 8-139 (Ramprakash 39), 9-140 (Ramprakash 39).

BOWLING: Walsh 27-7-47-2; Ambrose 12.1-5-21-2; Ramnarine 17-8-28-3; Bishop 19-4-34-1; Adams 3-2-1-0; Hooper 15-5-29-2.

WEST INDIES: Second Innings

S L Campbell c Ramprakash b Fraser	17 (33min, 22 balls, 2 fours)
S C Williams c Stewart b Headley	0 (7min, 4 balls)
*B C Lara c Butcher b Tufnell	30 (69min, 61 balls, 3 fours)
S Chanderpaul run out (Hussain)	0 (3min, 1 ball)
C L Hooper lbw b Headley	34 (99min, 72 balls, 4 fours)
J C Adams lbw b Croft	18 (82min, 46 balls, 2 fours)
†D Williams c Tufnell b Ramprakash	15 (46min, 46 balls)
I R Bishop not out	44 (128min, 94 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)
C E L Ambrose lbw b Croft	2 (7min, 6 balls)
C A Walsh c Russell b Croft	0 (9min, 6 balls)
D Ramnarine c Russell b Headley	19 (107min, 80 balls, 1 four)
Extras (b 1, lb 11, nb 6)	18
Total (72 overs, 317min)	197

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4 (Campbell 0), 2-32 (Lara 10), 3-32 (Lara 10), 4-75 (Hooper 21), 5-93 (Adams 4), 6-123 (Adams 18), 7-123 (Bishop 0), 8-127 (Bishop 2), 9-127 (Bishop 2).

BOWLING: Fraser 11-2-24-1 (nb 2; 2 fours; 5-1-13-1, 3-0-9-0, 3-1-5-0); Headley 13-5-37-3 (nb 1; 4 fours; 5-2-16-1, 4-1-10-1, 2-1-9-0, 2-1-2-1); Croft 22-6-50-3 (5 fours; 1-0-5-0, 5-0-16-0, 10-6-18-3, 6-3-11-0); Tufnell 24-5-72-1 (nb 5; 1 six, 5 fours; 15-2-44-1, 6-2-24-0, 3-1-4-0); Ramprakash 2-1-2-1 (one spell).

ENGLAND: Second Innings

*M A Atherton lbw b Ambrose	1 (11min, 10 balls)
A J Stewart lbw b Walsh	12 (35min, 29 balls, 2 fours)
M A Butcher lbw b Hooper	17 (115min, 67 balls, 2 fours)
N Hussain c Adams b Walsh	0 (2min, 2 balls)
G P Thorpe c Ramnarine b Ambrose	2 (13min, 9 balls)
M R Ramprakash c D Williams b Walsh	34 (116min, 111 balls, 5 fours)
†R C Russell c Lara b Ambrose	17 (99min, 95 balls, 2 fours)
R D B Croft c D Williams b Hooper	14 (46min, 34 balls, 3 fours)
D W Headley c Chanderpaul b Ambrose	9 (32min, 24 balls, 1 four)
A R C Fraser c Walsh b Hooper	2 (11min, 7 balls)
P C R Tufnell not out	0 (12min, 9 balls)
Extras (b 9, lb 2, w 1, nb 16)	28
Total (82.1 overs, 253min)	137

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6 (Stewart 4), 2-22 (Butcher 2), 3-22 (Butcher 2), 4-28 (Butcher 4), 5-55 (Ramprakash 10), 6-90 (Russell 8), 7-118 (Russell 17), 8-125 (Headley 2), 9-135 (Headley 9).

BOWLING: Ambrose 14.1-3-38-4 (nb 12; 4 fours; 10-2-25-2, 4.1-1-13-2); Walsh 15-4-25-3 (nb 2, 2 fours; 8-1-14-2, 6-3-10-1, 1-0-1-0); Hooper 18-8-61-3 (5 fours; 9-5-14-1, 3-1-2-0, 6-2-15-2); Bishop 3-1-4-0 (one spell); Ramnarine 11-5-23-0 (w 1; 3 fours; 5-2-10-0, 6-3-13-0); Adams 1-0-6-0 (1 four).

SCORING NOTES: Fourth day: Lunch: 5-0 (1 over, 4min; Atherton 0, Stewart 4). Tea: 68-4 (27 overs, 125min; Butcher 17, Ramprakash 10).

Match Award: S Chanderpaul (adjudication: R C Fredericks).

Umpires: S A Buckner and O S Hair (Australia). Third umpire: P Manton. Match referee: B N Jarman (Australia).

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Kingston): Match drawn (abandoned — dangerous pitch). Second Test (Port of Spain): West Indies won by 3 wickets. Third Test (Port of Spain): England won by 3 wickets.

TESTS TO COME: Fifth (Bridgetown) Mar 12-16; Sixth (St John's) Mar 20-24.

□ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

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FOOTBALL

Macari on course for return at Sheffield

BY RICHARD HOBSON

LOU MACARI could make a return to league management with Sheffield United before the weekend. The Nationwide League first division club is keen to appoint an experienced successor to Nigel Spackman, who resigned late on Monday ahead of the club's FA Cup quarter-final tie at Coventry City on Saturday.

The passage cleared for Macari yesterday when Brian Little and Frank Clark declared themselves out of the running. Ian Rush, on loan from Newcastle United, has managerial ambitions, but not the experience required by the board.

Macari stepped down as manager of Stoke City at the end of last season to pursue a claim for £400,000 in damages against Celtic, which dated back to his sacking by the Glasgow club in June 1994. The court failed to find in his favour and he is presently employed as a scout by Nottingham Forest.

For their part, United, who placed Steve Thompson and Russell Slade, the coaches, in temporary charge for the game against Ipswich Town last night, are keen to act swiftly to ensure that the drive for a place in the promotion play-offs does not lose impetus.

In a withering personal attack, Mike McDonald, the club chairman, suggested that Spackman, the former Bournemouth, Chelsea, Liverpool and Glasgow Rangers midfield player, had lost his nerve after the departure of Willie Donachie, the chief coach, to become assistant to Joe Royle at Manchester City two weeks ago.

McDonald said: "The fact that he resigned on the eve of two critical games and the announcement on Thursday of Sheffield United plc's interim accounts has made it very difficult for the club. Spackman was never the same after Donachie left. When the pressure came, he could not cope. On his own, he was just not experienced enough to handle it.

"I was pushed into giving him a chance after we lost Howard Kendall. Nigel got the job even though I was not 100 per cent sold on him and I have been proved right. Now he has put his own self-interest before the club and no one can forgive him for that."

The club floated on the Stock Exchange in January last year, but the value of its shares has slipped gradually from a high of 111.5 pence to around a third of that value. Spackman became increasingly disillusioned at having to sell players with striving for a place in the FA Carling Premiership.

He sold Brian Deane to Benfica and Jan Aage Fjorott to Barnsley on the same day in January for a combined total of £1.3 million and replaced them with Dean Saunders, a free transfer from Forest, and, later, Rush. Carl Tiler and Mitch Ward departed for Everton in November and Don Hutchison joined them at Goodison Park last week.

In the nine months since succeeding Kendall, Spackman emerged as one of the brightest young managers in the game, a reputation that is unlikely to be tarnished by the comments of McDonald. He led the club to fifth place and will remain as a player until his contract expires at the end of the season.

Charles Green, the chief executive, said that Spackman's resignation was not a complete surprise. "He did not sign the new contract offered to him. We have never made progress with it, so in many ways the concerns of the club were crystallised by his decision," he said.

George Graham, the Leeds United manager, is angry at the failure of Lucas Radebe to return from African Nations' Cup duty with South Africa in time for the club's match with Tottenham Hotspur tonight. Radebe played in his country's 2-0 defeat by Egypt in the final on Saturday but his whereabouts last night was a mystery.



Spackman: disillusioned



Sheringham's intelligent forward play has been an important weapon in the United armoury this season. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Sheringham provides striking difference

Oliver Holt meets the Manchester United player laying to rest one of the legends of Old Trafford

When Manchester United were shaken from their European Cup dream by Borussia Dortmund last spring, it led to a sweeping reappraisal of their prospects of winning the trophy that they covet more than any other. Perhaps because he had played particularly poorly in the second leg of the semi-final, many decided United could not evolve any further with a gently declining Eric Cantona bestriding the team. And when the summer came, he left.

In his place, instead of the annointed heir, Paul Scholes, there came Teddy Sheringham. For a short time, he struggled to adapt to the pace and fury of United's passing, but gradually he settled into his unhurried rhythm. When he scored a crucial equaliser in the 3-2 Champions' League victory over Juventus in October, everyone knew his assimilation was complete.

Yesterday, as United completed their preparations for their quarter-final encounter with AS Monaco tonight, the analysis of Sheringham's contribution was taken to another level. From Alex Ferguson, the United manager, and Jean Tigana, the Monaco coach, the message seemed to be that the first part of the mission had been achieved, that United were now capable of more than they had been with Cantona.

The most obvious benefit that Sheringham has brought to the team is the liberation of Andy Cole, a striker who laboured in the shadow of the Frenchman and appeared to be treated by him with something approaching contempt. In the company of Sheringham, though, Cole has blossomed into one of the best all-round strikers in the FA Carling Premiership.

Sheringham, who had never played in European club competition before this season, has shied away from comparisons with Cantona in the past, but yesterday he and Ferguson were happy to acknowledge similarities in influence between the two and Ferguson hinted that his England forward had given the team an extra dimension.

"From the first minute as soon as Eric left," Sheringham said, "I felt there was a position for me to slot into at United. I thought to myself 'I'm not Eric Cantona, but I would love to go and play with those players.' When I read the manager's comments that he would not be paying £6 million for a 31-year-old, then my thoughts turned away from Old Trafford, but luckily it worked out.

"I have formed a good partnership with Andy Cole. He is unbelievable. He showed that in the goals he scored at Newcastle. It was just a matter of him getting a run in the side and feeling confident. He likes to get the ball in and around the box and, once he gets one on one, it is game over."

At his press conference deep inside the Stade Louis II, Tigana identified Sheringham yesterday as "the one who regulates most of United's play. He is one of their most intelligent players." An hour before, Ferguson, too, had paid glowing tribute to him.

"He has just fitted in so easily," Ferguson said. "He had an initial spell when he did not realise the intensity of Manchester United games. He has been a terrific replacement for Eric Cantona. He's not that. He is not a twin of Cantona in the sense that he is an identical player, but there are some similarities in the way they play, in their positional play.

"Teddy has maybe given us a little bit more in that he is always looking to be in an attacking position for crosses. He is very good in the air. Eric was excellent in the air but he didn't always see the necessity to be on the end of crosses all the time."

Tonight — and in the rest of the matches that stretch out towards the European Cup final — Sheringham will have the chance to justify his manager's praise.

'He is not a twin of Cantona, but there are similarities in the way they play, in their positional play'

Chelsea braced for loss of Wise

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CHELSEA'S preparations for the final stages of a turbulent season, beginning with the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final tie against Real Betis in Seville tomorrow night, continued to go less than smoothly yesterday.

As the team tried to shake off the effects of a demoralising defeat by Manchester United that all but ruled them out of the FA Carling Premiership title equation, the Football Association was announcing that Dennis Wise, their captain, is to be brought before a disciplinary hearing after becoming the first player in the FA Premier League to accumulate 11 bookings this season.

The former England midfield player was shown the yellow card during the tetchy confrontation with United at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and the realisation that Wise may now miss several important matches put a further damper on a Chelsea season that promised so much but has lost impetus since the abrupt exit of Ruud Gullit.

Wise has already served two suspensions this season, missing three and two matches respectively, and another potential absence will have been noted by Middlesbrough, Chelsea's opponents in the Coca-Cola Cup final, and the rest of the Premiership pack chasing second place and a lucrative ticket to the European Cup Champions' League.

The loss of a player whose commitment has been an essential ingredient of the Chelsea midfield would be keenly felt should the team progress beyond the tie against a Real Betis side that has lacked consistency in the Spanish League but contains match-winning ability in abundance.

With Gianluca Vialli struggling to fill the boots of the departed player-manager, the Italian was dealt a setback yesterday to his plans to build on the foundations laid by Gullit when Didier Deschamps, a former colleague at Juventus, extended his contract in Turin to 2001.

The France captain said: "I've been annoyed by all this speculation, but it's not a problem. Moving away would make no sense to me. The club has given me everything I've asked for and I feel that I've still got a lot to win yet with Juventus."

One move confirmed yesterday, however, was that of Mark Stein, 32, the Chelsea forward, who will finish the season on loan trying to attain a promotion play-off place with Bournemouth, of the Nationwide League second division.

Jamaica to bring carnival atmosphere to QPR

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JAMAICA, who were last month denied the chance to play in London en route for the World Cup finals in France this summer, will now get their wish after it was announced that they will face Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road on March 22.

The team dubbed "The Reggae Boyz" had hoped to play Ireland at the West London ground as part of their World Cup preparations, but last month the Football Association refused permission. Now, though, a full-strength side will be the attraction as part of Simon Barker's testimonial.

Barker, the midfield player who has been with QPR for ten years, said: "I'm absolutely delighted Jamaica are coming. It was something the Jamaicans wanted to do because of the incredible support they have in this part of the world." Horace Burrell, president of the Jamaican Football Federation, said: "It will be a great occasion and the first time a Jamaican side has played in England."

It was not all good news for the Nationwide League first division club yesterday, however. Paul Murray, Rangers' England B midfield player, will miss the rest of the season after breaking his leg in two places against Norwich City on Saturday.

Terry Venables, the former England coach, said yesterday that the Australian football federation would not stand in his way if he decides to join Crystal Palace as manager. Venables has told the struggling FA Carling Premiership club that he will decide within the next week whether he wants to take over from Steve Coppell at Selhurst Park. He is still under contract to the Australian FA, but insisted that David Hill, the head of Soccer Australia, would allow him to take another job.

Brazil, the world champions, will undergo a managerial shake-up in the next few days when a technical coordinator is appointed, but Mario Zagallo, their much-criticised coach, is expected to remain in the job at least until after the World Cup finals.

BOWLS

Vincent champions new cause

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

BERYL VINCENT defeated Pat Pearce 21-6 in the final of the English women's Champion of Champions singles at Potters leisure resort, near Great Yarmouth, yesterday, then bemoaned the fact that she will not be able to defend her title next year. Vincent was eligible to take part in the event this week as champion of the Teignbridge club, which overlooks the racecourse at Newton Abbot, but she has already lost in the club's championship this season.

"To be honest, I haven't been playing all that well at home, so the fact that the carpet here is much slower than at Teignbridge probably helped me," she said.

"It's disappointing that I will not be able to enter next year," she added. "It would be nice if they seeded the winner through to the final stages, but I'll just have to try to get through in one of the other events."

Vincent conceded only 17 shots in her two games yesterday, defeating Gloria Haney, from Spalding, 21-11 in the semi-final, then beating Pearce 21-6 in a one-sided final.

In the pairs, Norma Craig and Ann Lennie, from the Eldon club in Newcastle, will face Brenda Bailey and Di Whittingham, of Preston, in one semi-final, and in the other Brenda Mark and Carol Pollington, from Diss, who defeated Jean Smith and Ann Harrison, from Folkestone, the runners-up last year, in the quarter-finals, will take on Jane Rowntree and Gloria Thomas, the 1988 champions, from West Cornwall.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Washington 96 LA Lakers 86; Charlotte 112 Golden State 83; Detroit 100 Dallas 94; San Antonio 116 Sacramento 85.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 81 Derby Storm 88.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Plymouth 83 Oxford 88. Second division: Chessington 83 Thames Valley 72; London 92 Wolverhampton 77; South Bank 82 Liverpool 74. Women: First division: Birmingham 59 Sheffield 77; Ipswich 77 Crystal Palace 57; Nottingham 44 Thames Valley 58; Rhondda 59 Leicester 48. Second division: Solent 47 Sheffield 48; Spelthorne 84 Wandsworth 49.

BIATHLON

PONTJUKA, Slovenia: World Cup. Men: 20km (missed targets in brackets): 1, R Gross (Swi) 53min 51.0sec; 2, E Gjelland (Nor) 53:53.5; 3, O E Bjoemdalen (Nor) 54:38.1 (2); 4, V Ralikonen (Fin) 54:40.1 (1); 5, S Fischer (Ger) 54:58.0; 6, F Andresen (Nor) 54:58.6 (2). Leading World Cup positions: 1, Gross 224pts; 2, Bjoemdalen 214; 3, Andresen 198; 4, V Maigurov (Rus) 182; 5, Fischer 172; 6, F Luck (Ger) 169. Women: 15km: 1, M Forsberg (Swe) 50:05.8 (1); 2, F Baverel (Fr) 50:53.8; 3, U Dal (Ger) 51:07.1 (1); 4, A E Sidsiltroald (Nor) 51:19.6 (1); 5, P Behle (Ger) 52:17.1 (2); 6, N Santer (It) 52:38.9 (3). Leading World Cup positions: 1, Forsberg 303; 2, Dal 243; 3, G Koukleva (Russ) 227; 4, A Grassic (Slovenia) 175; 5, M Zellner (Ger) 168; 6, A Achatova (Russ) 164.

BOWLS

HOPTON-ON-SEA: English women's indoor championships: Triples: First: March (K Hubbard, G Rose and D Miller) bt Sutton Surrey (J Newell, J Wheatley and A Briault) 16-13. Champion of Champions: Singles: Semi-finals: P Pearce (Preston, Brighton) bt Y Lyons (Faversham Hants) 21-17; B Vincent (Teignbridge, Devon) bt G Haney (Spalding, Lincs) 21-11. Final: D Vincent bt Pearce 21-6. Pairs: First round: Diss, Norfolk (B Mark and C Pollington) bt Stevenage, Herts (J Boosey and J Ward) 28-14; Folkestone (J Smith and A Harrison) bt Tilbury, Essex (J Lee and J Byford) 19-16; West Cornwall (J Rowntree and G Thomas) bt Woodspring, Somerset (M Noddings and A Pilgrim) 21-14, King George Field, Surrey (B Dudley and S Rickman) bt Athelstey, Southampton (A Dibble and W Line) 29-12; Brighton (B Bailey and D Preston, Brighton (B Bailey and D Whittingham) bt The Lawns, Middlesex (M Land and C Dennison) 18-17; Egham, Surrey (B Whatford and K Strutt) bt Avon Valley, Warwickshire (J Shillington and M Tims) 25-16; Eldon, Newcastle (N Craig and A Lennie) bt Cumbria (C Edmondson and E Gass) 28-18; Boston Lincs (J Tomlin and C Horn) bt Peterborough (M Jacklin and C Anton) 21-17.

LAWSON PARK: English Indoor Association national inter-club championship: Quarter-finals: Cumbria bt Avon Valley 81-52 (Rink scores, Cumbria skips first: A Baxter 22 George Moon 11; R Graham 17 Greg Moon 17; T Taylor 19 R Shakespeare 13; S Airey 23 W Ward 11); East Dorset bt Teignbridge 118-62 (Rink scores, East Dorset skips first: J Haines 36 R Johnson 8; N Smith 22 R Tolchard 6; N Jones 22 N Farrant 21; R Morgan 28 A O'Neill 26); Leicester bt Darlington 115-59 (Rink scores, Leicester skips first: A Irons 34 G Peacock 18; N Burns 21 T Bousfield 14; R Cooper 30 A Moore 13; R Cousins 30 A Kirtland 16); Moorfleet bt Portsmouth Victory 77-70 (Rink scores, Moorfleet skips first: B Paterson 22 A Ash 11, J Crabb 21 C Searle 15 I Foster 19). Semi-finals: Cumbria bt Moorfleet 94-58 (Rink scores, Cumbria skips first: Baxter 19 Patterson 21; Graham 25 J Crabb 10; Taylor 32 Astin 11; Airey 18 Searle 16); East Dorset bt Leicester 72-71 (Rink scores, East Dorset skips first: Haines 16 Irons 19; Smith 13 Burns 17; Jones 21 Cooper 16; Morgan 22 Cousins 19). Final: East Dorset bt Cumbria 76-65 (Rink scores, East Dorset skips first): Smith 17 Graham 17; Haines 25 Baxter 17, Jones 16 Taylor 19; Morgan 18 Airey 12).

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Nigel Moores Memorial race: 1, J Digeocomm (Switz) 139.59sec; 2, Lord Wrottesley (GB) 139.86; 3, R Ganesser (Switz) 140.59; 4, M Fischer (Switz) 141.78; 5, D Payne (GB) 142.16; 6, E Guggisn (It) 142.22.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Visakhapatnam: India (final day of three): BCCI President's XI 329-4 dec; Australians 567-8 (M J Slater 207, R T Ponting 155). Match drawn.

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: West Ham 0 Arsenal 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	28	16	5	5	57	19	59
Arsenal	26	13	9	4	45	26	48
Blackburn	27	13	9	5	49	33	48
Liverpool	28	13	8	7	46	28	47
Chelsea	27	14	3	10	52	30	45
Derby	28	13	6	9	44	34	45
Leicester	28	10	10	8	34	28	40
West Ham	27	12	4	11	38	36	40
Leeds	27	11	6	10	35	30	39
Coventry	28	10	9	9	35	35	39
Southampton	28	11	4	13	34	37	37
Newcastle	27	9	7	11	28	31	34
Sheff Wed	26	9	7	12	41	54	34
Aston Villa	28	9	6	13	30	39	33
Wimbledon	28	8	8	10	28	30	32
Everton	28	7	9	12	32	40	30
Tottenham	26	8	6	14	26	43	30
Barnsley	27	7	4	16	24	53	25
Bolton	27	4	12	11	23	43	24
Crystal Palace	27	5	6	14	21	41	33

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Spalding Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Northwich 3 Morecambe 1 (Morecambe win 4-3 on agg).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unibond First division Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Ashton 2 Lincoln United 4.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: League Cup: Fourth-round replay: Redditch 4 Gloucester 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 1 Norwich 4

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Stoke 5 Blackburn 2. First division: Sunderland 2 Bolton 1; Wolverhampton 1 Huddersfield 3.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Invitation Cup: Third round: Worcester 1 Stourbridge 2.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Erith v Chatham.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Pontefract Colts 0 Selby 4.

IRISH COCA-COLA CUP: Quarter-final: Glenavon 3 Newry 3 (aet; 2-2 after 90 min; Glenavon win 3-2 on pens)

SPANISH LEAGUE: Racing Santander 2 Barcelona 4.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Semi-final draw: Taunton Town v Sudbury Wanderers or Tow Law Town; Taunton Town, v Kidsgrove Athletic

☐ First legs to be played March 14, second legs March 21.

HOCKEY

IPOH, Malaysia: Azlan Shah Cup: Preliminary round: Australia 2 New Zealand 1; England 0 Germany 1; South Korea 3 New Zealand 2; Australia 5 Malaysia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Germany	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
South Korea	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
England	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Malaysia	3	1	0	2	5	10	3
New Zealand	3	0	0	3	3	9	0

MILTON KEYNES: British Aerospace national girls' schools championships: Leading final positions: Under-18: 1, Bromsgrove, Worcester 12pts; 2 Gordons, Bristol 9; 3 Peter Symonds, Winchester 4; Arnold School, Blackpool 3, 5, Coopers Coburn, Upminster 1. Under-16: 1, Queenswood B, 2, Pransley RC High 7, 3, Bradford Girls GS 6, 4 Kings College, Taunton 5; 5, St Leonards, Mayfield 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 3 Toronto 1; New Jersey 4 Philadelphia 3; Buffalo 1 New York Rangers 0; Edmonton 5 Colorado 4 (OT), Detroit 3 Phoenix 1; Los Angeles 2 Vancouver 2 (OT); Carolina 3 San Jose 1.

LACROSSE

MILTON KEYNES: National Schools tournament: Benenden Cup (seniors): Semi-finals: St Georges 4 Harrogate College 2; Birkhamsteard Collegiate 9 Cheltenham Ladies 1 Birkhamsteard 2; St George's 0 Len Smith Cup (juniors): Semi-finals: Malvern Girls College first team 3 Malvern Girls College second team 1; Haberdashers' Aske's 1 Lady Eleanor Holle 2. Final: Malvern 3 Lady Eleanor Holle 0.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British amateur doubles championship: First round: A Scammell and H Hall bt R Lawson and W Wells 15-8, 15-10, 11-15, 9-15, 15-8, 15-1; S Kreimdal and M Henman bt A Orchard and D Titchenell-Barrett 5-15, 15-7, 15-6, 17-15, 15-10. Quarter-finals: A and G Smith-Bingham bt K Walker and H Foster 15-9, 15-8, 15-8, 8-15, 15-8; M Hue Williams and M Windows bt J Crane and A Hascock, 15-7, 15-10, 15-3, 15-8; T Cockroft and R Owen-Browne bt S Kreimdal and M Henman 15-1, 15-11, 16-1, 15-1.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Fifth leg (Auckland to São Sebastião). Positions (at 1000GMT yesterday): 1, EF Language (Swe) 23days 1hr 9min 23sec; 2, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 28:4:7:17; 3, Chessie Racing (US) 28:10:31:48; 4, Swedish Match (Swe) 27:00.16:09; 5, Merit Cup (Monaco) 27:01:50:27; 6, Toshiba (US) 27:02.19:32; 7, Innovasun Kvaerner (Nor) 27:16:12:15; 8, EF Education (Swe) 1,589 miles to finish; 9, Silk Cut (GB) retired.

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM: Rotterdam world indoor tournament: First round: J van Herck (Bel) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-7, 6-3, 7-6; M Tillström (Swe) bt M-K Gbilner (Ger) 6-1, 6-3; S Bruguera (Sp) bt H Arazi (Mor) 7-6, 6-4; G Russelski (GB) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-7, 7-6, 7-6; P Rafter (Aus) bt P Wessels (Holl) 5-7, 7-6, 6-1; R Krajicek (Holl) bt D van Scheppingen (Holl) 7-5, 6-4; G Reoux (Fr) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-2, 6-3; K Carlsen (Den) bt B Ullrrach (Cz) 4-6, 7-6, 7-6; T Carbonell (Sp) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-7, 6-3, 6-4; D Scala (It) bt J van Lottum (Holl) 7-5, 6-3.

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Templeton Classic: First round: A Costa (Sp) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 7-6, 6-1; C Costa (Sp) bt M Norman (Swe) 6-4, 7-6; D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt J Alonso (Sp) 6-2, 6-3; N Lacerda (Ec) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; J Tarango (US) bt F Glasst (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4; S Schalken (Holl) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-3, 7-5; A Agassi (US) bt A Portas (Sp) 3-6, 6-1 6-2

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RACING

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	5	80	fair	varied	art	fair 7	1/3
	(Some good snow on upper slopes)						
Obergürgl	40	150	good	varied	good	cloud 8	1/3
	(Piste skiing remarkably good on most runs)						
FRANCE							
Les Arcs	80	180	fair	varied	slush	cloud 7	1/3
	(Pistes suffering a little but generally good)						
Avoriaz	125	155	fair	varied	slushy	cloud 2	1/3
	(Reasonably good skiing in most areas)						
ITALY							
Cervinia	15	150	fair	varied	soft	fair 8	23/2
	(Some low areas getting thin but all runs still skiable)						
SWITZERLAND							
Klosters	5	115	good	heavy	worn	cloud 9	1/3
	(Good snow and skiing above 2,000m, worn and slushy below)						

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

RESGAT

(b) Ransom. The Portuguese word is *resgate*. Spanish *rescate*.

RHABDOSOPHY

(c) Stick wisdom. From the Greek words for a rod and wisdom.

PROA

(c) A Malay boat propelled by sails or oars, specifically a sailing boat of a particular type used in the Malay archipelago. From the Malay *p(ə)rā(h)i*: a boat, a rowing or sailing vessel.

RHINOBATID

(a) A shark-like ray of the family *Rhinobatidae*. From the Greek *rhinē* a shark + *batos* a ray. "Rhinobatids (*Rhinobatidae*). The ventrals in this group are close behind the pectorals, which pass imperceptibly into the snout."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qg8+! Kxg8 2 Rxe8+ Kg7 3 Reh8 and R2h7 mate follows.

BASKETBALL

Nelson steps in as Bears ring changes

RYAN WILLIAMS, the player-coach recently subjected to abuse by supporters of Worthing Bears, has left the club by mutual consent (Nicholas Harling writes). He has been replaced until the end of the season, at least, by Steve Nelson, Worthing's former England international.

Nelson assumed charge of a squad that has lost its past 19 successive games to slump to one from bottom of the Budweiser League. Near the end of that lean sequence, Williams aggravated a groin injury and was forced to fly home for treatment. While he was in California, he was offered a job as a financier that he accepted.

"This is a great loss to us as Ryan was featuring highly in our plans for next season," Christian Hamilton, the Bears' co-owner said yesterday, "but we are delighted that Steve has agreed to take over." Nelson's first match in charge will be the Budweiser league fixture against Manchester Giants in the Nynex Arena on Saturday.

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William HILL

LIVE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ACTION

6/4 MONACO 11/5 DRAW MAN. UTD. 6/4

Louis II Stadium, Kick-off 7.45pm, Live on ITV.

CORRECT SCORE

MONACO	SCORE TO BE	MAN. UTD.
6/1	1-0	6/1
9/1	2-0	9/1
9/1	2-1	9/1
25/1	3-0	25/1
22/1	3-1	22/1
33/1	3-2	33/1
11/2	0-0	11/2
5/1	1-1	5/1
18/1	2-2	18/1

Other scores on request.

DOUBLE RESULT

H/TIME	F/TIME	
MONACO	MONACO	10/3
MONACO	DRAW	14/1
MONACO	MAN. UTD.	28/1
DRAW	MONACO	5/1
DRAW	DRAW	4/1
DRAW	MAN. UTD.	5/1
MAN. UTD.	MONACO	28/1
MAN. UTD.	DRAW	14/1
MAN. UTD.	MAN. UTD.	10/3

Bets void if match not completed.

FIRST GOALSCORER

11/2 ...TREZEGUET (M)
6/1 ...COLE (MU)
13/2 ...IKPEBA (M)
7/1 ...HENRY (M)
7/1 ...SHERINGHAM (MU)
7/1 ...SOLSKJAER (MU)
11/1 ...BENARBIA (M)
12/1 ...SCHOLES (MU)
12/1 ...BECKHAM (MU)
14/2 ...NO GOALSCORER

Other players on request. Own goals do not count.

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RUGBY UNION: IRELAND FOLLOW BOWRING BY ADOPTING NEW LOOK IN FACE OF DEFEAT

Wales undergo change of heart

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

WORDS such as "hurt, humiliation and anger" were reiterated yesterday when Wales confirmed their XV to play Scotland at Wembley in the third round of the Five Nations Championship on Saturday. Defeat by 34 points against England 11 days ago still sticks in the Welsh craw and is reflected in the degree of change, though not one of the changes in personnel can be described as a newcomer.

The same words were on Brian Ashton's lips when he watched his Ireland team lose by a point to Scotland last month. Now Ashton has gone and his successor, Warren Gatland, has made four changes for the demanding trip on Saturday to Paris, where the Irish have not won since 1972. In particular, Gatland has restored to half back Eric Elwood and Conor McGuinness, two players with whom he is thoroughly familiar, because he has coached them with Connacht.

Rob Henderson, the Wasps centre, who has been out of action much of this year through injury, also returns to the Ireland midfield, while Victor Costello comes in at No 8 for Eric Miller, who is unavailable. The Ireland management will confirm today whether Andy Ward, the uncapped New Zealander, will play on the open-side flank or whether Kieron Dawson retains the No 7 jersey.

"The only way to bounce back is by performing on the pitch and beating Scotland," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said. "We will have to build a win second by second. Our pride has been hurt, but our resolve has been strengthened."

The pain of Welsh failure at Twickenham was confirmed by Terry Cobner, the Welsh Rugby Union director of rugby. He was asked how often had he thought about the 60-26 defeat? "Every time I go to bed at night and every time I wake up in the morning," Cobner said graphically.

Robert Howley, the Wales captain, described the week after the Twickenham game as the worst in his career, but he admitted that the players had to accept responsibility for improvement. "I felt let down by my own performance," he said. "The other players will know how they felt, but they have a responsibility for their own performance."

It is that responsibility which has been questioned by the Welsh public since February 21, doubts that can only be expunged by a return to winning ways. Bowring has retained a mobile back row, where Kingsley Jones returns as pack leader, and will hope for a better-balanced display from his back division. "Neil Jenkins should provide stability in defence and precision in his passing and kicking game, which was missing against England," Bowring said.

"We need to earn respect on the field and it may take longer than just one game. When you feel so hurt and so angry, especially by comments that seem uninformed, it strengthens your resolve."

Simon Holmes, 30, the Scotland flanker and vice-captain, will miss the match after breaking a finger in training. Eric Peters comes in at No 8 with Adam Roxburgh switching to the open side.

Gatland talked about performance in Limerick yesterday, after naming his Ireland team 24 hours earlier than expected. The former New Zealand hooker does not expect Paris to be an exercise in damage-limitation, though that has invariably been the case in recent years: he will expect his Connacht half backs to organise a better game than did Brian O'Meara and David Humphreys against Scotland and worries about Henderson's match fitness have had to be laid aside because of Mark McCall's unavailability after bruising ribs in London Irish's cup defeat on Sunday — ironically, against Henderson's colleagues from Wasps.

Miller, the Leicester No 8, has picked up an infection after a prolonged bout of influenza, hence his absence from the back row. That may offer an argument for the retention at flanker of Dawson: he can offer greater experience than Ward, who must otherwise make the leap from Ballinahinch in the third division of Irish club rugby into a completely revamped back row.


HUW EVANS

Neil Jenkins, right, who switches to fly half for the match against Scotland, joins the line during training with Wales

WALES AND IRELAND TEAMS

WALES (v Scotland): K A Morgan (Pontypridd); W T Proctor (Llanelli), A G Bateman (Richmond), I S Gibbs (Swansea), G Thomas (Bridgend); N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Howley (Cardiff, captain); A L P Lewis (Cardiff), G R Jenkins (Swansea), D Young (Cardiff), M J Voyle (Llanelli), A P Moore (Swansea), R C Appleyard (Swansea), K P Jones (Ebbw Vale), C L Charvis (Swansea). Replacements: L B Davies (Cardiff), A C Thomas (Swansea), P John (Pontypridd), L S Quinnell (Richmond), W S Roy (Pontypridd), L Mustoe (Cardiff), J M Humphreys (Cardiff).

WALES A (v Scotland A, Newport, March 6): J Thomas (Cardiff); G Wyatt (Pontypridd), J Lewis (Pontypridd), N Boobyer (Llanelli), D James (Pontypridd); B Hayward (Ebbw Vale), A Moore (Richmond, captain); A Griffiths (Pontypridd), B Williams (Richmond), C Anthony (Swansea), G Llewellyn (Harlequins), C Stephens (Bridgend), M Lloyd (Pontypridd), M Williams (Pontypridd), C Wyatt (Llanelli). Replacements: M Taylor (Swansea), C Warlow (Llanelli), H Harries (Harlequins), I Boobyer (Neath), V Cooper (Llanelli), N Eynon (Pontypridd), R McBryde (Llanelli).

IRELAND (v France): C M P O'Shea (London Irish); R M Wallace (Saracens), K M Maggs (Bristol), R A J Henderson (Wasps), D A Hickie (St Mary's College); E P Elwood (Galwegians), C D McGuinness (St Mary's College); R Corrigan (Greystones), K G M Wood (Harlequins, captain), P S Wallace (Saracens), P S Johns (Saracens), M E O'Kelly (London Irish), D S Corkery (Bristol), A N Other, V C P Costello (St Mary's College). Replacements: M Lynch (Young Munster), D G Humphreys (London Irish), B T O'Meara (Cork Constitution), N J Popplewell (Newcastle), R P Nesdale (Newcastle), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), M J Galwey (Shannon).

TELEVISION CHOICE

Revamping the garden

***Home Front* in the Garden**
BBC2, 8.30pm

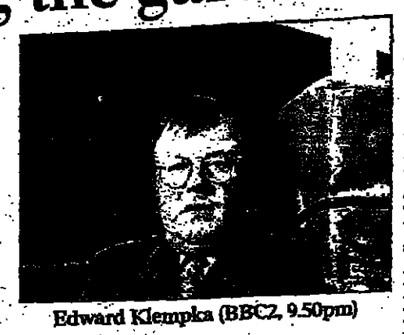
The cheery *Home Front* team, including Kevin McCloud and the flame-haired Anne McKevitt, move out of doors. They insist this is not another gardening programme and that their makeovers need no horticultural expertise. To be sure, the show is less about flowers and plants than doing what *Home Front* normally does, getting out the paintbrush (the louder the colours the better) and following the *Blue Peter* principle that you can do wonderful things with old baked bean cans. By these means even the least promising of spaces can be transformed and the demands of televisual compression mean that it is all done in about 20 minutes. Delighted owners (you never get any other sort on these programmes) survey the results. The first challenge is a garden with a thin strip of lawn and little else.

Modern Times: Agony Aunts
BBC2, 9.00pm

Running an agony column is both a responsibility and a means of providing entertainment for readers. The dichotomy is well illustrated at *The Sun*. Deirdre Sanders and her team deal with up to 1,000 letters a week and worry about giving the right advice to people in obvious trouble. But the paper's assistant editor admits with relish: "Somebody's else's sexual problems are always entertaining. If they are not yours, they are great." The aunts hotly deny that the letters they publish are fabricated and the film features several people who have been grateful for their advice, not least a man serving time in prison. Not all the aunts are as serious about the job as Richard and Judy's Denise Robertson, who has been brought close to tears. Karen Krizanovich at *Sky* magazine says it is "the closest you get to being a modern-day huckster".

Trouble at the Top
BBC2, 9.50pm

The latest in the absorbing series on businesses in bother visits Hull Kingston Rovers rugby league club. The cameras pick up the story at the start of the 1997 season and with the club £1 million in the red it could be the last. Edward Klempka, an administrator who specialises in saving companies, is the last hope and he has a job on his hands. The team starts well but with no money for new players is soon struggling. The main sponsor pulls out. A London property speculator makes an offer for the club and then pulls out. The obvious solution to an outsider would be a merger with Hull's other rugby league club, though that would outrage both sets of fans. Ashok Prasad's film gathers momentum as the negotiations become ever more tangled and devious and Hull KR looks increasingly to be doomed.


Edward Klempka (BBC2, 9.50pm)

Jazz 606
BBC2, 11.15pm

One of television's very rare excursions into jazz (has it become such a minority art?) takes the form of a six-part series from the 606 Club in Chelsea. The use of an authentic jazz location rather than a studio should do much for atmosphere, while the aim is to offer music in all the currently fashionable styles. This means that hard-bop, modern, acid and fusion are in and what used to be known as traditional jazz will only appear, if at all, in the weekly archive spot. The poet Lemn Sissay is our host, introducing the artists and performing his verse, and each bill mixes emerging talent with established names. Tonight's line-up comprises the Billy Cobham Band with the trumpeter Randy Brecker, the soul singer Tony O'Malley, the Stan Tracey Quintet and the many-faceted Orquestra Mahatma.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

In The Name of Security
Radio 4, 7.20pm

I reviewed the first part of this series in the Arts pages last week and I felt some confusion between the real voices of people involved and the voices of actors playing those people. That does not apply to this, the second in the series, *The Trials of of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg*. Perhaps familiarity with the docu-drama format helps; whatever the reason, this is a clear and highly evocative telling of the story of the Rosenbergs, who went to the electric chair for espionage in 1953. Much of this account tends to back the contention that the Rosenbergs were found guilty on the basis of evidence that was mostly circumstantial. Certainly the frantic anti-communist atmosphere throughout America at the time helped to weigh the case against them.

The People's Psalms
Radio 2, 11.45pm

Familiarity (in the case of literature) tends to breed, not so much contempt, as a barrier to real meaning because the mind becomes lazy about looking at themes afresh. The problem applies to religious writing as much as to any other kind and indeed there is a particular difficulty about religious themes because they are often overfamiliar from being learnt by rote in childhood; thus they take on the form of a mantra. This nightly series of six 15-minute programmes aims to freshen some of the most familiar psalms. A variety of people talk about each psalm each night and tonight they include a Manchester milkman, a rabbi, a bishop and some children from a primary school in Liverpool.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Moyles 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 The Evening Session 8.30 Movie Update 9.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Barraclough 8.00 Ralph McTell 9.00 Roots Radio 9.30 Bill Cotton's Double Bill 10.00 The Steve Wright Picture Show 10.30 Richard Allinson 11.45 The People's Psalms. See Choice 12.05am Stevie Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Russcoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Football Night. AS Monaco v Manchester United in the first leg of the European Cup quarter-final 10.00 Littlejohn 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Ray Cokes 10.00 Caimin Jones 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Air and Angels 7.30 Meridian Live 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 Everywoman 9.00 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Farming World 9.30 Britain Now 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 One Planet 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Sports International 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Wavegulde 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Megamix 3.00 News; News in German (648 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Performance 3.30 Everywoman 4.00 News 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent 4.30 The World Today; News in German (648 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 The Works; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Multitrack X-Press 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 On Screen 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack X-Press 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am From Our Own Correspondent 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Omnibus 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Meridian Books 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Life on the Road 3.45 The Learning World 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly. Michael Barry prepares Indian beef curry and Record of the Week features the best of the new releases 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto. Rodrigo (Fantasia Para un Gentilhombre) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Including Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics 6.30 Newsnight 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 9.00 Evening Concert. Debussy (Prelude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Massenet (Suite No 4 for Orchestra, Scenes Pittoresque); Rodrigo (Concierto Pastoral); Beethoven (Symphony No 6 in F) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air**, with Stephanie Hughes. Purcell (Incidental music Abdelazer, excerpts); Francaix (Theme and Variations); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C sharp minor, Moonlight); Dvořák (Slavonic Dance in C); Benjamin (Jamaican Rhumba); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G)
9.00 **Masterworks**, with Penny Gore. Mozart (Symphony in G, Alte Lambach); Brahms (Violin Sonata No 2 in A); Mozart (Un' Aura Amorosa, Così fan tutte); Mozart (Symphony No 6 in F); Mahler (Kindertotenlieder)
10.30 **Artist of the Week: Richard Hickox** in conversation with Joan Bakewell. Hickox talks about the role of a conductor and his work with the City of London Sinfonia, the orchestra he founded in 1971
11.00 **Sound Stories: Brief Candles.** Donald Macleod celebrates the work of the little-known composer Lili Boulanger, the younger sister of Nadia
12.00 **Composer of the Week: Tippett**
1.00pm **The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.** Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Ysaye Quartet. Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Sunrise); Debussy (String Quartet in G minor)
2.00 **Midweek Choice:** Call 0171-765 4308 with your classical requests
4.00 **Choral Evensong.** Live from Exeter Cathedral.
5.00 **In Tune.** With the announcement of the British Animation Awards, Humphrey Carpenter explores the relationship between music and cartoons, from *Tom and Jerry* to Wallace and Gromit. Music includes Dukas and Vivaldi
7.30 **Performance on 3.** Live from Symphony Hall, Birmingham. City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. Knussen (Symphony No 3); Birtwistle (The Triumph of Time). 8.20 Tippett's Symphonies. The composer David Matthews and the conductors Andrew Davis and David Atherton talk to Michael Berkeley about Tippett's symphonic output 8.40 Tippett (Symphony No 4)
9.30 **Postscript: Choice Grenfell.** Maureen Lipman recreates monologues, sketches and songs originally written and performed by Joyce Grenfell. Today's selection includes *Dear Francois*, a song with music composed by Richard Addinsell (3/5)
9.45 **Saint-Saëns: Masters of Disguises.** The baritone Francois le Roux and the pianist Graham Johnson perform a selection of songs
10.00 **Ensemble:** Penny Gore introduces Jan Schuberth's Ensemble of London. Korngold (Suite for piano, left hand, two violins and cello), composed for the pianist Paul Wittgenstein
10.45 **Night Waves.** Joyce Macmillan reviews Manuel Poliner's new film *Western*, a contemporary road movie which opens this week
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Schumann** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes.** Richard Niles presents excerpts from a concert at the Leipzig Gewandhaus during the BBC Big Band's recent tour of eastern Germany. Also featured are the Berlin-based RIAS Big Band. The musical directors are Barry Forgie and Jiggs Whigham
1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) **Shipping Forecast** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 **Midweek**, with the *Times* columnist Libby Purves and guests
10.00 (FM) News; A Good Read. Thomas Sutcliffe talks to Toyah Willcox and Mavis Nicholson
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On These Days. The *Times* columnist Matthew Parris investigates the history of parliamentary scandals
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray and guests
11.30 **Gardeners' Question Time.** Nigel Colborn, John Cushnie and Bob Flowerdew answer questions sent in by post (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with John Waite
12.25pm **Visiting Julia.** Peter Tinniswood's comedy drama with Keith Barron, Liz Goulding and Shirley Dixon (5/5) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clark
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; **The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes: Shoscombe Old Place.** The last of three classic mysteries by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Starring Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes and Michael Williams as Dr Watson (r)
2.45 **Stages of Redemption** Seven writers reflect on enduring themes drawn from the story of Christ's Passion. Today's writer is Josephine Hart (2/7)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Tim Marlow reviews the film version of Martin Sherman's play *Bent*, starring Clive Owen, Lothaire Bluteau and Sir Ian McKellen
4.45 **Short Story: Inspector Remorse**, by Fay Weldon, read by Patricia Hodge
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 **Counterpoint** (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 **In the Name of Security.** See Choice
8.20 **Lion's Den: Beyond Hampstead.** Professor Lisa Jardine faces an audience at the Royal Society of Literature (2/3)
9.00 **On Giants' Shoulders: Sigmund Freud.** The *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg talks to Oliver Sacks, Susan Greenfield and Adam Phillips about the father of psychoanalysis (2/6)
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Golf Dreams.** Written and read by John Updike (3/5)
11.00 **Armstrong and Miller.** A new series of four programmes featuring comic sketches and songs with Ben Miller, Alexander Armstrong, Samuel West and Tony Gardner
11.15 **World of Pub.** A four-part radio cartoon show set in an East End pub. With John Thompson, Peter Serafinowicz and Phil Cornwell
11.30 (FM) **Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue.** With Robert Duncan and Jan Ravens (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00 News 12.30am **The Late Book: The Boys**, by Christopher Fitz-Simon. Read by Alan Barry (3/5)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.8-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Clubs voice concern over expansion plans

THE National Clubs' Association (NCA) meets this evening to consider its reaction to the proposed restructuring of the leagues. No vote is going to be taken, but the clubs in the Jewson National League want to mull over contingencies should the change occur, according to Colin Sewell, the NCA secretary. "The general view of clubs is wait and see," he said.

As things stand, it would mean four clubs — probably London Welsh, Worcester, Leeds and Rugby — going up into an expanded second division in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. However, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), in the shape of Cliff Brittle, is firmly against any change. He is reported to be studying the agreement between the top clubs and the RFU that gave birth to the English Rugby Partnership (ERP) to see if he can challenge the ERP's decision to increase the top two divisions to 14 clubs each.

Brittle thinks that he has a legal case, in that the original agreement made mention only of 24 clubs. Conversely, the top clubs believe that they have a cast iron case in law as regards the Premiership, but accept that promotion from the first division of the Jewson League may be a sticking point.

When and where will it all end? In tears, judging by the comments of one club chief executive, who admitted at the weekend that, if the leagues do expand, they may be reduced again soon should an accord be reached on an acceptable European competition.

Dropped goal

Kevin Yates may yet have his day in the High Court in an attempt to clear his name, but he will not have to turn up at Bath Magistrates' Court again. Roy Edey, 72, a retired solicitor's clerk from Harrow on the Hill, yesterday dropped a private prosecution against Yates because of a lack of evidence.

He had brought the action, which contained three charges under the Public Order Act, apparently to allow Yates the opportunity to clear his name. "There is no proof Yates was guilty," Edey said. "He was tried behind closed doors . . . he was scapegoated by the RFU to clear the name of rugby." In that case, one wonders why Edey brought the prosecution in the first place.

Just for kicks

Tetley's Bitter is offering someone the chance to win £1 million with one kick during the cup final at Twickenham on May 9. The brewers have launched what they call rugby's biggest promotion, with the winner going for the big prize in front of a crowd of 75,000.

Praise indeed

Jeff Probyn eat your heart out. It is the women's University match on Sunday at Iffley Road, where Oxford will be defending a nine-year unbeaten record. Probyn, the former England prop, may have made derogatory remarks about females and rugby in his time, but Quentin de Bruyn, a past coach and captain of the men's side, says that "never in my 19 years of involvement in the sport have I ever seen a side train and play with so much heart".



Thomas top

The fly half debate rages on in Wales after the decision to drop Arwel Thomas and switch Neil Jenkins to No 10. Loose Talk is indebted to a source in the Principality who questions the perception of Jenkins as a match-winner. In 23 matches against the "Big Five", Jenkins has been on a winning Wales side only three times and in those matches averaged a mere 6.69 points. It transpires that Thomas is Wales's top try-scoring fly half of all time. He has seven to his name, eclipsing Barry John and Jonathan Davies (5 each), Phil Bennett (4), Cliff Morgan and Jenkins (3 each).

Front runner

And finally . . . it looks like being third time lucky for Dennis Gethin, who is favourite to be the Welsh Rugby Union's new chief executive. Gethin has twice missed out on the post; on the last occasion to Richard Jasinski, who resigned last autumn.

Mark Souster

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan buyout goes to vote

WHILE Wigan Warriors can look forward to the financial windfall of a Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final at home to St Helens, the holders, on March 15, a more pressing concern is a proposed £2 million buyout of the club by David Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic Football Club.

Whelan, who requires a 75 per cent vote at an extraordinary general meeting on Saturday to change the articles of association and allow him a majority stake, is prepared to pay £125 each for 16,000 ordinary shares.

Without the necessary support, Whelan — a former president and sponsor of the rugby league club — has threatened to withdraw his backing, which would leave Wigan with a potential financial crisis. The deadline for proxy votes is lunchtime tomorrow and Mike Nolan, the Wigan chairman, is stressing the importance of people exercising their rights to ensure that the three-quarters majority is achieved. "It is essential they attend or send their proxy votes back," he said.

In the week that work began on a £30 million, 25,000-seat stadium, which Whelan is building at Robin Park to accommodate the football and rugby league clubs, Wigan were told that their cup-tie would be moved from Saturday week, as originally intended, to the next day to avoid a clash with Wigan Athletic's home game against Oldham Athletic. The match will still be shown live by the BBC, as will the tie between Castleford Tigers and Sheffield Eagles on March 14.

Tommy Martyn, the St Helens stand-off half, has been cleared to play against Wigan. The Rugby Football League executive committee found that he did not have a case to answer after studying video evidence of an alleged high tackle on Chris Morley, the Warrington forward.

Robbie McCormack, Wigan's new Australian hooker, will also be fit, despite an injury sustained after he was allegedly gouged in the eye.

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Unadulterated truth proves hard to swallow

Your eyes popped out and your jaw dropped from the very first scene of **The Life and Crimes of William Palmer**, ITV's two-part drama about the seemingly respectable country doctor who became one of Victorian England's most notorious and reviled serial killers. But once you were used to the scary sight of Keith Allen with a full and flourishing head of hair, it all became eerily unengaging.

Allen's Palmer — who specialised in poisoning members of his own family, though he was not too proud to bump off troublesome friends and relations as well — was a practitioner of the Chinese school of murder: you kill one person and half-an-hour later you could simply murder another one. Actors' agents must have had a tough time persuading their dubious clients to audition for what turned out to be the genuinely plum role of village undertaker, a man who commands almost as much screen time here as the main characters. Only your milkman makes more regular house calls than the Palmers' undertaker.

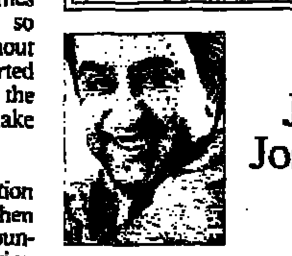
As always, Allen is never less than riveting. But the reason he seemed so much more tantalising a baddie in *Martin Chuzzlewit* was that we had Dickens's invisible hand twisting the plot into delicious and devilish shapes.

It might well be true that Palmer was one of the first serial killers to become really famous, and that 30,000 people turned up for his hanging. And maybe that was enough to persuade Glenn Chandler, who also created *Taggart*, that Palmer's story was, as he describes it: "bizarre enough already; and I think with a true story you're under an obligation to stick to the truth."

Is he right? The showbiz success of Des O'Connor is pretty bizarre, but would that make a biopic of Des fascinating? The sinking of the *Titanic* was a dramatic enough story as it was, but would James Cameron's film have been so successful at the box office without the artifice of a love story inserted into the narrative to focus the audience's eye (even if it did make many of them squint)?

Nor is Palmer's motivation explored much. Then again, maybe it was country life that drove him to it. Living in the country seems to unhinge people, as Dylan Moran keeps discovering in Simon Nye's **How Do You Want Me?** (BBC2). Last night, as well as foiling an attempt by his new father-in-law (Frank Finlay as a sort of human Mount Etna) to bribe him to divorce his wife, Moran crossed the path of Mr Norriswood (Clive Merrison), the village-school headmaster who takes a dim view of Moran's chaotic attempt to take the annual

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

school photo. Paradoxically, Norriswood (a traditional sitcom role — larger than life, more exaggerated and unpredictable in his reactions than human beings who are not actually care-in-the-community patients) served as the pinch of salt that brings out the flavour in a dish. He highlighted just how far from a trad sitcom *How Do You Want Me?* is.

For a start, nobody apart from Moran says anything very funny. It seems an unlikely recipe for sitcom success: but then, *The Larry Sanders Show* has been keeping us amused spectacularly well on a jokeless diet. Actually, *Larry Sanders* is even more daring: not only has it actually removed the gag-after-gag safety net from under the tightrope, it has actually removed the tightrope by pretty much dispensing with plots. It somehow just levitates, breathtakingly.

Also swimming against the tide was **Cutting Edge's *Holding The Baby***, on Channel 4. Watching this tale of British nannies who had spent a year in America looking after a collection of neurotic, often hysterical individuals (and, of course, their babies) produced a strange sensation. It was a sensation which reminded me of that scene in Steve Martin's *LA Story* where he complains to a new young girlfriend that her breasts feel a little peculiar. "Yeah, I'm sorry," she apologises. "That's because they're real."

Similarly, we viewers have grown so used to "docu-soaps" that we might have expected that — given such promising subject matter as a bunch of raw teenage girls, oscillating between triumph and tears — the makers of this documentary would have succumbed to the temptation to just follow the novice nannies, fly-on-the-wall fashion, as they did the school run, moaned about their employees, and wept into their pillows.

But Belinda Giles and Ann Hawker have followed the old-fashioned, silicone-free route of documentary-making, to produce a taut, moving and unsensationalised portrait of cracked dreams and broken promises. At their three-day induction course in New Jersey, on arrival in America, the girls are warned by the agency which brokered their new jobs that they will all experience problems over the coming year. And they do. Funny that, because you would think that after three days in New Jersey, nothing in life would ever seem quite so grim again.

Nothing is ever grim for Murray Walker, the Formula One commentator who hasn't yet grasped the concept of the microphone. "He's still mentally the enthusiast he might have been in his teens," Jackie Stewart told us on **The Murray Walker Story** (ITV). Remember that phrase if you ever need a euphemism for "He suffers from arrested development."

Murray certainly does get overexcited. You imagine he even gets overexcited when collecting his dry-cleaning from Sketchley's: "I can't *believe* it!!! Will you just look at the really quite amazing crease on those trousers!! I haven't seen a crease like that since I took a suit in to a dry-cleaner's in Monaco in 1987!! Just incredible!!"

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (57549)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (50839)
9.00 Style Challenge (8896461)
9.25 Change That In Glasgow (5846146)
9.50 Kilroy (T) (3393810)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7528407)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (1193029)
11.35 Real Rooms (1421549)
12.00 News (T) (8854549)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5405704)
12.35 Wipeout (2347988)
1.00 News (T) and weather (53926)
1.30 Regional News (T) (54027988)
1.40 The Weather Show (66488487)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (72350758)
2.10 Ironside (r) (9347177)
3.00 Lion Country (5094)
3.30 Playdays (7334520) **3.50** ChuckleVision (7354384) **4.10** Get Your Own Back (1219926) **4.35** The Wild House (5176907) **5.00** Newsround (T) (9494346) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (3118177)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (178810)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (471)
6.30 Regional News (723)
7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Chefs *Brian Turner and Antony Worrall* Thompson are challenged by Richard Whiteley and Samantha Janus (T) (7075)
7.30 Tomorrow's World Anya Sitaram unveils *a new radio-wave treatment for* insomniacs. Plus, details of how to take part in Megalab '98 (T) (907)
8.00 Doctor's Orders GP Paul Slade *challenges a patient to lose weight ready* for an operation. Huw Thomas meets some unusual casualties on the cottage hospital nightshift (T) (6723)
8.30 Points of View *(T) (138568)*
8.45 The National Lottery Draw With Kylie Minogue and Carol Smillie (T) (111891)
9.00 News (T) and weather (5452)
9.30 The Thin Blue Line The officers have a brush with fame as a BBC TV crew arrive in Gasforth (r) (T) (50988) **WALES: 9.30** Wales Opera Factory (50988) **10.30** The X Files (600549) **11.15** The Stereophonics (568568) **11.45** The Mission (923297) **12.25am** FILM Rollercoaster (86498650) **2.30** News *headlines and weather (5905227)* **2.35** BBC News 24
9.59 National Lottery Update (T) (216471)
10.00 The X Files: Gethsemane Cliffhanger final episode of the current series, starring Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny (T) (100839)
10.45 The Mission: Blow Up Demolition experts prepare to bring down a skyscraper in central Pittsburgh, without damaging the historic stained glass windows of a neighbouring church (T) (805487)
11.35 Rollercoaster (1977) Action thriller in which safety inspector George Segal FILM tackles highly skilled saboteur Timothy Bottoms. *Directed by James Goldstone* (T) (801146)
1.30am Weather (2041679)
1.35 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.10am The Emergence of Greek Mathematics (3967162) **6.35** The *Location Problem (1955365)*
7.00 See Hear News (T) (7383926)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (5393617) **7.40** The Wacky Races (r) (6981891) **8.00** Record Breakers Gold (r) (T) (32094) **8.30** Postman Pat (r) (6750297) **8.45** The Record (3329297) **9.10** Short Circuit (7585094) **9.30** Job Bank (9108094) **9.45** Words and Pictures (9103549) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (16907) **10.30** Numbertime (7244051) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2294556) **11.00** Around Scotland *(7512346)* **11.20** *Geography (T)* (9951162) **11.40** Working it Out (4274487) **11.55** Hands Up! (9663146) **12.10pm** Science in Action (T) (2421433)
12.30 Working Lunch *(61094)* **1.00** *Dilly the* Dinosaur (r) (24070487) **1.05** Bananaman (r) (24079758) **1.10** The Leisure Hour (7801075) **2.10** Going, Going, Gone (22247100) **2.40** News (T) (9415636) **2.45** Westminster (T) **3.55** News (T) (4186810)
4.00 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (4276487) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (4173346) **4.55** Esther: Why divorce? (r) (6273568) **5.30** Today's the Day (100)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (r) (T) (427655)
6.45 Sliders (r) (T) (717075)
7.30 Pound for Pound The financial magazine looks at the benefits and *pitfalls of building your own home; and* property as an investment (549)
8.00 University Challenge Nottingham University v Jesus College, Cambridge *(T) (4365)*
8.30 CHOICE **Home Front in the Garden** New series with Kevin McCloud and his team (6100)
9.00 CHOICE ***Modern Times: Agony Aunts*** A close-up look at the booming Agony Aunt business (T) (114471)
9.50 CHOICE ***Trouble at the Top: Rover's Return*** Attempts to rescue Hull Kingston Rovers rugby league club. (T) (664452)
10.30 Newsnight *(T) (691891)*

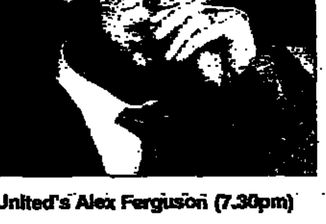


Pianist Stan Tracey (11.15pm)

11.15 CHOICE **Jazz 606** Lemn Sissay presents jazz sessions from Chelsea's 606 club Tonight. The Billy Cobham Band, featuring the trumpeting of Randy Brecker (385988)
11.55 Weather (977926)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (28292)
12.30am Learning Zone: The Chemistry of Creation (93722) **1.00** The Chemistry of the Invisible (35143) **1.30** The Chemistry of Creativity (40583) **2.00** Schools Newsfile IV (78582) **4.00** The New Get By in Spanish (96124) **5.00** RCN Nursing Update (9128292) **5.45** Is Seeing Believing?(75292)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4039094)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (r) (T) (3846966)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5265891)
10.00 The Time, The Place (T) (74153)
10.30 This Morning (T) (41994758)
12.20pm Regional News (T) *(8843433)*
12.30 News (T) and weather (2366013)
12.55 Shortland Street (2341704) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (94797278) **1.50** Crosswits (72253891) **2.20** Chef School (39931433) **2.50** Vanessa: Too Old To Be a Mum (T) (6940839)
3.20 News (T) (1972094)
3.25 Regional News (T) (1971365)
3.30 Tots TV (6337033) **3.40** The Blobs (6620461) **3.50** Kipper (r) (1076725) **4.00** Oscar and Friends (9352159) **4.05** The Wombles (1542907) **4.20** Woof (r) (T) (1200278) **4.45** How Goes 2 (T) (5263487)
5.10 WALES: Moneyspinners (T) (2132926)
5.10 Highway to Heaven (2/2) (2132926)
5.40 News (T) and weather (831592)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (470181)
6.25 Regional Weather *(353079)*
6.30 Regional News (T) (891)
7.00 Emmerdale Paddy discovers a shocking secret about Biff and Katy (T) (5471)



United's Alex Ferguson (7.30pm)

7.30 The Big Match Bob Wilson presents live coverage of the European Champions' League quarter-final first leg between Monaco and Manchester United Commentary is provided by Brian Moore (T) (41490810)
NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration
9.45 Coronation Street Spider is double-crossed by Curly and Deirdre's sanity is questioned by Mike (T) (565471)
10.15 News at Ten (T): weather and Lottery Result (557452)
10.45 Regional News (T) (663891)
10.55 Jeff Green Up West Comedian Green performs his live show in front of a *London audience (T) (607452)*
11.40 The Big Match Highlights from the European Champions' League quarter-finals, including Bayern Munich v the *champions, Borussia Dortmund (498926)*
12.40am Into the Badlands (1991) Bruce FILM Dern Helen Hunt and Mariel Hemingway star in this trilogy of strange western tales *centred on a bounty hunter's determined* search for a ruthless killer. Directed by Sam Pillsbury (708018)
2.30 The Big Match The full 90 minutes of *Bayern Munich v Borussia Dortmund* (200143)
4.20 Cybernet (62812853)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (4287360)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (97495)
5.30 News (23747)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (2341704)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2132926)
6.25-7.00 Central News (668075)
12.40am Film: I'm Dangerous Tonight (1990). A chiller starring Anthony Perkins, Madchen Amick and Daisy Hall. A red ancient Aztec ceremonial cloak confers evil powers on those who come into contact with it. Directed by Tobe Hooper (494150)
2.25 The Big Match: Champions League. Full coverage of Bayern Munich v Borussia Dortmund (849921)
4.10 Cybernet (8067495)
4.45 Central Jobfinder '98 (9090037)
5.20 Asian Eye (1169872)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8843433)
12.55 Home and Away (2341704)
1.25-1.50 Emmerdale (94797278)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2132926)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (73839)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2132926)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (839)
6.30-7.00 Streetwise (891)
5.00am Freescreen (97495)

ANGLIA

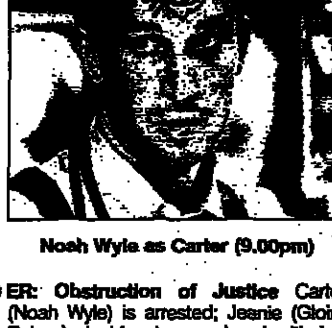
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8862568)
12.55-1.25 Surprise Chefs (2341704)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2132926)
6.23 Anglia Weather (903536)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (668075)
10.44 Anglia Air Watch (680568)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (46487)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (43549)
9.00 Ysgolion (245278)
11.30 Powerhouse (9655)
12.00 Ricki Lake (37549)
12.30pm Sesame Street (56162)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (47227907)
1.15 Sgerbyde (47215162)
1.30 Laws of Mortal Danger (54034278)
1.45 Film: The Wrong Arm of the Law (13056617)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (297)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (704)
4.30 Countdown (988)
5.00 5 Pump (9159810)
5.15 Ffeil (9499891)
5.30 Shop Till You Drop (568)
6.00 Newyddion (825617)
6.10 Heno (505487)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (314471)
7.25 Ffermio (593617)
8.00 Pacio *(9433)*
8.30 Newyddion (8568)
9.00 Cutting Edge (4075)
10.00 Brookside (568471)
10.35 ER (443181)
11.30 Frasier (58177)
12.00 Under the Moon (6275834)
4.30am British Athletics (18476)
5.00-5.30 Screaming Reels (95037)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (46487) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (43549)
9.00 Schools: The Enterprise Zone (40013) **9.30** Good Health Guide (T) (9193162) **9.45** Book Box (T) (9198617) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (8817549) **10.15** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (8823100) **10.30** The French Programme (T) (6484617) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (2289549) **11.00** First Edition V (9975742) **11.15** The Mix (T) (9965365)
11.30 Powerhouse Political magazine (9655) **12.00** Sesame Street (37549) **12.30pm** Light Lunch with Sir Ian McKellen and Amanda Donohoe (r) (64346) **1.30** The Heart is Highland. Scotland's scenery (72275013)
1.55 Pickup on South Street (1953, b/w) FILM Richard Widmark stars as a pickpocket who unwittingly becomes involved in a Cold War plot. Directed by Samuel Fuller (T) (14850471)
3.30 Collectors' Lot. Modern first editions; Victorian gentleman's editions; Roberts radios and Dutch interiors (T) (297)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (704) **4.30** Countdown (T) (5180348) **4.55** Ricki Lake: *Living on state benefits (T)* (6268636) **5.30** Pet Rescue. A baby seal fights for survival after being washed up on the northeast coast (T) (568)
6.00 ***Party of Five*** Charlie decides the time has come to tell his family that he has cancer (T) (403075)
6.50 Fresh Pop (149094)
7.00 ***Channel 4 News*** (T) (985549)
7.55 LitPop Maori poet Jillian Tipene (T) (455452)
8.00 Brookside How will Eleanor react to Louise's opinions on Marcus? Mick learns the cost of Leo's extra tuition (T) (9433)
8.30 TV Dinners A celebration on a Scottish estate and the West Essex Gourmet Club's 35th anniversary dinner (T) (8568)



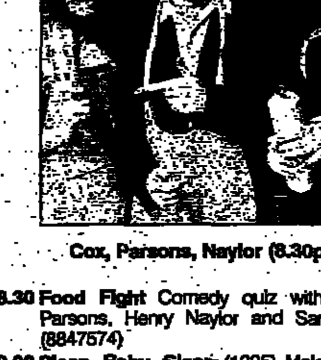
Noah Wyle as Carter (9.00pm)

9.00 ER: Obstruction of Justice Carter (Noah Wyle) is arrested; Jeanie (Gloria Ruben) decides to go ahead with her claim for unfair dismissal (T) (4075)
10.00 Friends: The One With the Giant Poking Device Chandler and Janice make a difficult decision about their relationship (T) (38278)
10.30 Friends: The One With the Football A bitter competition develops out of a friendly game of football (r) (T) (47926)
11.00 The Mark Thomas Comedy Product Current affairs with a comic slant (6097)
11.30 Moviewatch (r) (T) (58177)
12.00 Under the Moon *Through the night* sports magazine (6275834)
4.30am British Athletics (r) (18476)
5.00 Screaming Reels Angling action (r) (T) (3980292)
5.25 Schools: Science in Focus (T) (3998211)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (8516100)
7.00 WideWorld: Home Ground Architecture through the ages (1/10) (T) (5799384) **7.30** Milkshake! (6550181) **7.35** Wimzie's House (r) (4037384) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (1779968) **8.30** Dappledown Farm (r) (1874487)
9.00 Espresso (5192723) **10.00** Secret Lives (r) (T) (3827902) **10.30** Sunset Beach (T) (5883636) **11.10** Leeza (2679907)
12.00 5 News (T) (1772075) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (6833723) **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (5798655) **1.30** Sons and Daughters (6632094) **2.00** Beauty and the Beast (2477461) **3.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (9493618)
3.30 The Patricia Neal Story: An Act of Love (1981) The true story of the Oscar- FILM winning actress's recovery from a series of strokes. Glenda Jackson is in the title role with Dirk Bogarde as her husband Roald Dahl. Directed by Anthony Harvey and Anthony Page (2624471)
5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards Lake Windermere (37766100)
5.30 The Great Garden Game (r) (T) (7798487)
6.00 100 Per Cent (7615100)
6.30 Family Affairs Roy feels rejected by Pete's business plan (T) (7606452)
7.00 5 News (T) (9392669)
7.30 Secret Lives Wildlife documentary (T) *(7602636)*
8.00 The Pepsi Chart presented by Eddy Temple-Morris and Rhona Mitra (8043177)



Cox, Parsons, Naylor (8.30pm)

8.30 Food Fight Comedy quiz with Andy Parsons, Henry Naylor and Sara Cox (8847574)
9.00 Sleep, Baby, Sleep (1995) Melodrama FILM with Tracey Gold, Kyle Chandler and Thomas Calabro. A woman suffering from an attention deficit disorder loses her young child and the police suspect murder. Directed by Armand Mastroianni *(80562704)*
10.50 Chelsea in Europe A look ahead to tomorrow's match between Chelsea and Real Betis in the European Cup Winners' *Cup (3909988)*
11.20 The Jack Docherty Show (4214839)
12.05am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine. Includes at **3.30** Last year's Indy Car Grand Prix (86468389)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5140360)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY 1

7.00am Street Sharks (74433) **7.30** Bump in the Night (7639384) **7.45** The Simpsons (82839) **8.15** Oprah (8479926) **9.00** Hotel (26549) **10.00** Another World (82452) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (79988) **12.00** Married with Children (77181) **12.30pm** M*A*S*H (28574) **1.00** Geraldo (76079) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (62100) **3.00** Jenny Jones (27100) **4.00** Oprah (13907) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6988) **6.00** Dream Team (2013) **6.30** Married with Children (3365) **7.00** The Simpsons (7617) **7.30** Real TV (9649) **8.00** Space Island One (32520) **9.00** Outer Limits (52384) **10.00** Millennium (55471) **11.00** *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (83181) **12.00** Late Show (33211) **1.00am** Raven (69921) **2.30** Murphy Brown (5663) **3.00** Long Play (9357211)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888 Each film costs **£2.99** per viewing
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Michael (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Jerry Maguire (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Matilda (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Mars Attacks! (1996)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Kiss Me Goodbye (1982) (20629100) **8.00 The Ballad of Cable Hogue (1970)** (198159) **10.30 A Little Princess (1995)** (49075) **12.30pm The Adventures of Baron Munchausen (1989)** (697742) **3.00 Kiss Me Goodbye (1982)** (38162) **5.00 A Little Princess (1995)** (83742) **7.00 A Waltons' Easter (1996)** (89365) **9.00 Now and Then (1995)** (37075) **11.00 Mad Love (1995)** (462452) **12.40am Crazy Horse (1996)** (524143) **2.15 The Birds II: Land's End (1994)** (304414) **3.45 The Heavenly Kid (1985)** (71394389)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.05am I Married a Witch (1942) (8593164) **7.30 I Wake Up Screaming (1941)** (75888) **9.00 The Skateboard Kid II (1996)** (44758) **11.00 Brigham Young (1940)** (69471) **1.00pm Legacy of Sin: The William Colt Jnr Story (1995)** (42346) **3.00 Angel Face (1953)** (50034094) **4.35 Abbott and Costello Meet the Invisible Man (1951)** (9038655) **6.00 Legacy of Sin: The William Colt Jnr Story (1995)** (36568) **8.05 Independence Day (1996)** (82401433) **10.30 The Last Supper (1996)** (51463013) **12.05am Miami Rhapsody (1995)** (943376) **1.45 Criminal Passion (1995)** (704853) **3.20 Cyclo (1995)** (54901308)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Shall We Dance? (1937) (3185471) **6.00 Earth Girls Are Easy (1989)** (5724487) **8.00 Married to the Mob (1988)** (5623704) **10.00 Nico: Above the Law (1988)** (4023013) **11.40 Kung Fu (1971)** (8624617) **12.55am Little Nikita (1988)** (5127747) **2.35 Zardoz (1974)** (8164360) **4.20 Kung Fu (1971)** (75318227) **5.45** Close

TNT

9.00pm Border Shootout (1990) (38289365) **11.00 Greed (1924)** (80938181) **1.30am The Hour of 13 (1952)** (96865673) **3.00 Border Shootout (1990)** (46923056) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (34839) **7.30** Wrestling (19346) **8.30** Sports Centre (49297) **9.00** Racing News (30549) **9.30** Aerobics (65723) **10.00** Footballers' Football Show (15758) **11.00** Tarzan Extra (42487) **11.30** V-Max (47988) **12.00** Aerobics (43013) **12.30pm** World Motor Sport (226278) **3.00** Rebel Sports (5278) **3.30** Tarzan Extra (5907) **4.00** Footballers' Football Show (60839) **5.00** Wrestling (2758) **6.00** Sports Centre (4891) **6.30** Futbol Mundial (8471) **7.00** Trans World Sport (89452) **8.00** Rugby League (76988) **10.00** Sports Centre (44742) **10.30** Snooker: Premier League (57384) **12.30am** Sports Centre (95414) **1.00** Rugby League (48785) **3.00** Sports Centre (12872) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (5109704) **7.30** Sports Centre (5128839) **8.00** Racing News (9368810) **8.30** Fish TV (5286487) **9.30** Sports Unlimited (7543094) **10.30** Pro Beach Soccer (6003346) **11.30** Survival of the Fittest (8736365) **12.00** Golf: LPGA Australian Masters (8108100) **2.00pm** Golf Extra (7416100) **5.00** Snooker: Premier League (9359162) **7.00** Sports Centre (3671033) **7.30** Golf Extra (8081723) **10.30** Euro Tour Weekly (9355346) **11.00** Futbol Mundial (8727617) **11.30** Watersports World (8732181) **12.30am** Euro Tour Weekly (3132747) **1.00** Sports Centre (6280414) **1.30** Watersports World (5528308) **2.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Wrestling (22653297) **1.00** Fish TV (22639617) **2.00** Superbouts (33916452) **3.00** Olympic Dreams (97746723) **3.30** Sports Unlimited (55893100) **4.30** Survival of the Fittest (25520365) **5.00** V-Max (97645346) **5.30** Watersports World (63919100) **6.30** Euro Tour Weekly (25525810) **7.00** Fish TV (38279389) **8.00** Sport USA (82486181) **9.30** Sir Prime (22664926) **10.00** Cue Masters (29427533) **10.30** Dickie Davies' Sporting Heroes (95416907) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Uefa Cup (55075) **9.30** Biathlon (10839) *11.30 ATP Tour Review* (55384) **12.00** Snowboarding (73742) **1.00pm** Snowboarding: FIS World Cup — Live (59162) **2.00** Ski Jumping (84346) **3.00** Biathlon (69100) **4.00** Speedworld Magazine (56307) **5.00** Uefa Cup (38346) **7.00** 4x4 Off-Road (5655) **7.30** Sumo (90723) **8.30** Darts: World Masters (70358) **10.30** Boxing (25297) **11.30** Speedworld Magazine (76346) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge Down Under (2029723) **7.35** Neighbours (1196617) **8.00** Crossroads (2414346) **8.25** EastEnders (2995568) **9.00** The Bill (3394617) **9.30** Howards' Way (1426455) **10.00** Home to Roost (8146636) **10.30** The Sullivans (3496029) **11.00** Casualty (5935487) **12.00** Crossroads (6537566) **12.25pm** Neighbours (8590452) **12.55** EastEnders (1917433) **1.30** Sykes (6363549) **2.05** Yes Minister (5657029) **2.45** Stay Lucky (9111549) **3.45** The Bill (3350231) **4.15** Juliet Bravo (81417433) **5.20** EastEnders (2240891) **5.55** Big Break (4413100) **6.30** The Bill (4148297) **7.00** Dad's Army (9942810) **7.40** Canned Carrot (2439541) **8.20** Blackadder II (6711181) **9.00** Between the Lines (7257502) **10.05** The Comic Strip Presents (8703386) **10.45** Live At Jongleurs (1679029) **11.15** *Naked Video* (4155568) **11.50** Spitting Image (4801297) **12.20am** The Equalizer (7468414) **1.15** The Equalizer (4094572) **2.00** The Equalizer (2827105) **2.50** Shopping (23564018)



Mike Damus and friends in *Teen Angel* (Disney Channel, 6.00pm)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (1089891) **7.00** O and E! (3465162) **7.30** Coronation St (3484297) **8.00** Sand Data (7748346) **9.00** Within These Walls (8263471) **10.00** Marlowe (3473181) **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (3460617) **12.00** Coronation St (4177568) **12.30pm** Families (7227520) **1.00** Watching (2464433) **1.30** Agony (7226891) **2.00** Poirot (6116029) **3.00** London's Burning (6733181) **4.00** Hawaii Five-O (6799988) **5.00** Mission: Impossible (9560907) **6.00** Families (5498742) **6.30** Coronation St (5429094) **7.00** Poirot (5881742) **8.00** London's Burning (5867162) **9.00** Coronation St (6711100) **9.30** Stand-Up (7247384) **10.00** Mission: Impossible (5880013) **11.00** Granada Men and Motors (2921162)

CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)

5.00pm Gridlock (9765278) **5.30** Hey Dad (25520549) **6.00** Blockbusters (25516182) **6.30** A Country Practice (25530742) **7.00** London Bridge (97663742) **7.30** Live Football (38013562) **10.00** Switch On (17782505) **10.30** Goodnight Sweetheart (35782425) **11.00** St Elsewhere (40545543) **12.00** Moto Club (92756124) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (82440921)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Jungle Cubs **7.00** Recess **7.30** Pepper Ann **8.00** Brand Spanking New Doug **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Aladdin. The Series **9.30** Quack Pack **10.00** Amazing Animals **10.30** Sesame Street **11.30** Winnie the Pooh **11.45** Poddington Peas **11.50** Alphabet Castle **12.00** Little Hippo **12.15pm** Animal Shelf **12.30** Rosie and Jim **12.45** The Toothbrush Family **12.50** Bear in the Big Blue House **1.15** Winnie the Pooh **1.30** Chip 'N' Dale's Rescue Rangers **2.00** Goof Troop **2.30** Jungle Cubs **3.00** Timon and Pumbaa **3.30** Brand Spanking New Doug **4.00** Pepper Ann **4.30** Recess **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** FILM: **Kid Midas (1996)** **8.30** The Wonder Years **9.00** Touched by an Angel **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Zeo **6.25** Crazy Crow **6.30** Power Rangers Zeo **7.00** X Men **7.35** Mortal Kombat **8.00** Goosebumps **8.35** Masked Rider **9.00** The Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Pinocchio **10.30** Peter Pan **11.00** Oliver Twist **11.30** Huckleberry Finn **12.00** Gulliver's Travels **12.30pm** X Men **1.00** Spiderman **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.25** Adventures of Dodo **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** *Big Bad Beetleborgs* **3.30** *Masked Rider* **4.00** Incredible Hulk **4.25** Incredible Hulk **5.00** Goosebumps **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** The Tick **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Big Dish **6.30** Oscar's Orchestra **7.00** Sprou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Spellbinder II **9.00** Road to Avonlea **10.00** AJ's Time Travellers **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Ivnogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Sprou **12.30pm** Oscar's Orchestra **1.00** Spellbinder II **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Gigantor **3.30** Big Dish **4.00** Batman **4.30** Dennis the Menace

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula **6.30** Ren and Stimpy **7.00** Angry Beavers **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **9.00** CBBC **10.00** *Wimzie's House* **10.30** *Babar* **11.00** *Magic School Bus* **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blues Clues **1.00** Clangers **1.30** Muppet Babies **2.00** Fraggle Rock **2.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks **3.00** Jumanji **3.30** Doug **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Captain Star **5.00** Rugrats **5.30** Sister Sister **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Kenan and Kel

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Sweat **1.00** Echo Point **1.30** Heartbreak High **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** Sweat **3.30** Heartbreak High **4.00** Hollyoaks **4.30** Saved by the Bell **5.00** USA High **5.30** Sweat **6.00** Echo Point **6.30** Blast **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hollyoaks **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Fifteen-to-One **5.50** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.05** Blockbusters **7.30** Give Us a Clue **8.00** All Clued Up **8.30** Whittle **9.15** Sale of the Century **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** 3-2-1 **12.30am** Moonlighting **1.30** Fall Guy **2.30** Boogies Diner **3.00** Snowy River, The McGregor Saga **3.50** Jeux sans Frontières **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team (6983075) **9.00** Tour of Duty (6903839) **10.00** The Basement (3300278) **10.30** Red Shoe Diaries (3319926) **11.00** FILM: **Evil Dead II** (1712988) **12.50am** Unbalanced World (8046495) **1.00** The Basement (7744869) **1.30** Tour of Duty (3288018) **2.30** FILM: **Double Agent 73** (2383989) **4.20** Unbalanced World (21307056) **4.30** Red Shoe *Diaries (7728834)* **5.00** *A-Team (4475259)*

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (1029) **7.30** Roseanne (2297) **8.00** The Kenny Everett *Show (4549)* **8.30** *Caroline in the City (6384)* **9.00** Cheers (57365) **9.30** Ellen (54617) **10.00** Frasier (42384) **10.30** Duckman (26704) **11.00** Armstrong and Miller (52810) **11.30** Grace Under Fire (65075) **12.00** Ellen (11196) **12.30am** Nurses (93056) **1.00** Cheers (90650) **1.30** Roseanne (35211) **2.00** Caroline in the City (46312) **2.30** Armstrong and Miller (97679) **3.00** Frasier (10414) **3.30** Duckman (11259) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Quantum Leap (5363568) **9.00** The Cape (9343704) **10.00** FILM: **The Wraith (1986)** (1484839) **12.00** Sightings (1414211) **1.00am** Space Angel (1439269) **1.30** *Ray Bradbury Theatre* (9907211) **2.00** Friday the 13th (5542501) **3.00** Tales of the Unexpected (1419495) **3.30** Dark Shadows (5395211) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Joy of Painting **9.30** Garden Club **10.00** Great Gardening Plot **10.30** Tool Time **11.00** Go Fishing **11.30** Hometime **12.00** Driving Passions **12.30pm** All New *This Old House* **1.00** *Yan Can Cook* **1.30** New Yankee Workshop **2.00** Home Again **2.30** These Four Walls **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** This Old House **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt (4138810) **4.30** Disaster (4134094) **5.00** Wheel Nuts (6736087) **5.30** Terra X (4125346) **6.00** Australia Wild (4228487) **6.30** Australia Wild (4146839) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (6831641) **7.30** Turning Points (4135723) **8.00** Ghosthunters (4831461) **8.30** The Quest (1881146) **9.00** Lake Monster (6313568) **9.30** Sea Serpent (1415346) **10.00** Emergency!: Golden Hour (6902100) **11.00** Best of British (5841094) **12.00** The Specialists (8754124) **1.00am** Turning Points (7740143) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (3771563) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Wild South (9610278) **7.30** Fire! (9369520) **8.00** Okavango Magic (9282094) **9.00** Blues Highway (7470013) **9.30** Tango (8593487) **10.00** Across a Fiery Sky (9272817) **11.00** Mischievous Meerkats (9125568) **12.00** Treasure Hunt (2634124)

TRAVEL (CABLE)

12.00pm Travel Live **1.00** Golfer's Travels **1.30** Floyd On Oz **2.00** Tread The Med **2.30** Great Escape **3.00** Fork In The Road **3.30** Worldwide Guide **4.00** Ribbons Of Steel **4.30** Flavours Of France **5.00** Golfer's Travels **5.30** Railway Adventures **6.00** Floyd On Oz **6.30** Tread The Med **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** Pathfinders **8.30** On Tour **9.00** Grainger's World **10.00** Great Escape **10.30** Fork In The Road **11.00** Worldwide Guide **11.30** Ridge Riders **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm No Price Too High (8726988) **5.00** Century (4021574) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (3762655) **7.00** Biography: Eleanor Roosevelt (6045029) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Feasts of the World **10.30** What's Cooking? **11.00** Worrall Thompson **11.30** Graham Kerr **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** The Restaurant Show **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** From the Ground Up **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Wok Wiz **3.30** Worrall Thompson **4.00** A Taste of the Caribbean **4.30** So You Think You Can't Cook **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Ready Steady Cook **9.35** Hart to Hart **10.30** Young and Restless **11.20** Brookside **11.50** Jimmy's **12.20pm** Rescue 911 **12.50** Animal Rescue *1.25 Adrenalin Junkies* **2.20** *Living & Up!* **3.20** Jerry Springer **4.10** Tempest **5.00** Hear Is On **5.30** Ready Steady Cook **6.10** Jerry Springer **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries Magic and Miracles **8.00** Murder Call **9.00** FILM: **Deadly Messages** **11.00** Spicy Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Phire Alam **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Ghoomta Apna **8.00** News **8.30** Aahaa **9.00** Manali **9.30** Out & About **10.00** Tara **11.00** Low Cal **11.30** Daraar **12.00** FILM **3.00pm** Hum Aapke Hain Woh **3.30** Daraar **4.00** Hum Paanch **4.30** Public Demand **5.30** Teen Do Paanch **6.00** Banegi Apni Baat **6.30** Hits **7.00** Yeh Hai Zindagi **7.30** Baat Ban Jaye **8.00** News **8.30** Dastaan **9.00** Yeh Zindagi **10.00** Business **10.30** Top 10 **11.00** Purush Kshetra

مكتبة من الأمل



MOTOR RACING 38
Villeneuve braced for a return to feudal system

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 42
Wales ring changes as pain of their humiliation lingers



WEDNESDAY MARCH 4 1998

'Potato patch' pitch likely to favour Monaco in first leg of European Cup quarter-final

Doubts surface over United's hopes

FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN MONACO

BEFORE lunch, all was gravitas. Alex Ferguson made one of his most stirring calls to arms and Gary Neville, his lieutenant, vowed that he and his team-mates would not rest in their quest for greatness. After lunch, farce made an unscheduled entrance in the shape of the playing surface at the Stade Louis II and, before dusk had fallen on the principality, Manchester United's match with AS Monaco here tonight had been marked down in the annals of European football as "The Battle of the Potato Patch Pitch".

In vain did Jean Tigana, the Monaco coach, protest that the pitch, already a source of curiosity because only eight inches of soil and turf separate the surface from the concrete roof of the car park on which it perches, was not in any worse condition than usual. By then, a Uefa official had permitted an impromptu pitch inspection by the English media, a Monaco representative had admitted that the heavily pockmarked surface sometimes resembled "*un champ de pommes de terre*" and the wailing had begun.

That the state of the pitch will exert some influence on the result of the European Cup quarter-final first leg tonight is beyond doubt. The gouges that disfigure it like black wounds, particularly on the flanks, where David Beckham roams as United break with speed, will inhibit the high intensity of passing that has become the trademark of England's champions at their best. It may push them towards a more pragmatic style of football — longer passes, fewer moves of intricate brilliance. "We cannot expect to have one of our most creative nights," Ferguson said.

The alarm that greeted Ferguson's concerns about the surface was symptomatic of the tension that is gradually tightening around the team now that the United manager and his players are about to resume their epic hunt for the trophy that consumes them and which holds the power to bestow upon them equality with Busby, Best and Charlton.

It has all gone so well so far. United qualified above Juventus, no less, in the Champions' League stage of the competition and showed that they had at last grown as accomplished as the Italians. "We have done everything right up to now," Ferguson said. But now that the knockout stage is about to begin, there will be an even greater urgency about the games: less room for error, more distrust of factors such as bad bounces and bobbling balls that could lead to decisive mistakes.

It does not help, either, that Monaco are a better side than many have given them credit for. They may have been more welcome opponents than Dynamo Kiev or Real Madrid, but, in their playmaker, Ali Benarbia, their sweeper, Franck Dumas, and their forwards, Viktor Ikpeba — the African footballer of the year — and Thierry Henry, the top scorer in the competition, they have players of the highest quality. One advantage for United is that Monaco's leading scorer, David Trezeguet, failed a fitness test on an injured knee and has been ruled out.

Tigana guessed that United were 55-45 favourites to win the tie, but when someone asked him how he rated his opponents' chances of winning the cup, he revealed a different agenda. "I will tell you after the two matches," he said, "if United are still in the competition."

Amid all the distractions, though, including deepening worries about hordes of United supporters travelling here without tickets, Ferguson remained resolute and focused. He ridiculed as "a lot of nonsense" some of the extravagant praise United have been given by their opponents and promised that his players had not been fooled. Then he outlined the task that lies ahead for his team — likely to be the same XI that finished the 1-0 win over Chelsea on Saturday — in front of a capacity 15,000 crowd.

"It will be a very difficult match," Ferguson said. "Monaco do not try to complicate the way they play. They are straightforward and effective, they all defend very well and the pitch suits that. It is a test of technique and a test of touch, but it is a test of courage more than anything to play the way we want to play. We will do our best to conform to that."

When Neville spoke, there seemed little doubt that United would not be found wanting. "The European games are special to us," he said, "because of the standard we want to set ourselves, to become a great side, and for people to look upon us a great side. All the great teams in the past have won the European Cup and we know that until we win this trophy we will not be looked upon in the same light."



There were lighter moments for Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, yesterday before he realised that his team's chances tonight may have been compromised. Photograph: Marc Aspland

AS MONACO (4-3-1-2): F Barthez — W Sagnol, F Dumas, M Djetou, P Leonard — F da Costa, J Collins, S Legwinsky — A Benarbia — T Henry, V Ikpeba.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, R Johnsen, D Irwin — D Beckham, P Neville, P Scholes, N Butt — E Sherringham — A Cole.
Referee: M Diez Vega (Spain).
TELEVISION: Live coverage ITV (7.30pm).

Newcastle paper over the cracks

BY MATT DICKINSON

NEWCASTLE United were involved in an unconvincing cover-up yesterday, from the baseball cap that Keith Gillespie wore over his reportedly gashed head as he flew home early from the team's trip to Dublin to the denials that Alan Shearer had struck his team-mate to the floor on a drunken night in the Irish capital.

A tale of high jinks gone wrong appears to be Newcastle's best attempt at an explanation for the incident on Sunday evening that left Gillespie, the club's Northern Ireland winger, in hospital suffering from concussion after he had struck his head against a kerb outside the Café En Seine nightspot.

Gillespie flew back to the North East alone yesterday morning from the trip that was intended to bond the struggling Newcastle team together in the build-up to the FA Cup sixth-round tie against Barnsley at the weekend. He declined to comment on the cause of his injuries, leaving his agent, Ian Elliott, to say: "It was horseplay, nothing more. There was some fooling about and it went a bit wrong. That's all."

Meanwhile, the rest of the Newcastle party stayed in Ireland to play golf and are due to arrive back in England today, when they will no doubt be given a frosty reception by Kenny Dalglish, the manager, who was not on the rest and recuperation exercise.

Dalglish is expected to demand explanations from Shearer and Gillespie and the pair could be fined if their behaviour is deemed unacceptable. Asked if Gillespie's injuries had been sustained in a fight, Shearer would only say yesterday: "It was not like that." Dalglish will want a more detailed report of how one of his most important players had to fly home early after an evening in hospital.

Claus Thomsen, the Everton midfield player, is expected to join AB Copenhagen today in a deal worth £500,000. Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, said that Thomsen was making the move in an attempt to secure his place in the Denmark team for the World Cup in France this summer.

Kendall said: "His performances for us recently had been much improved, but he is desperate for guaranteed first-team football and Copenhagen can offer him that."

Owners threaten summer tours

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

UNLESS the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and leading English clubs put politics behind them, forget the posturing that has been so apparent this season and find a realistic solution to their common problems, then the scheduled tours to the southern hemisphere this summer by all four home unions will be severely compromised.

Keith Barwell and Nigel Wray, the owners of respectively Northampton and Saracens, met their players yesterday and reflected a unified attitude among all the owner-investor clubs in the first and second divisions of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. They wish to bring to a head the club v country row that has been simmering not just this season but for some seasons past and introduce order where there is now chaos.

Barwell will insist that his most overworked players, such as Tim Rodber, Paul Grayson and Matt Dawson — all of whom will meet RFU officials at today's England squad training at Bisham Abbey — should rest this summer rather than take part in England's seven-match tour to the southern hemisphere.

Wray has given his players no instructions but will advise them to rest, in order to prepare for an arduous domestic season, followed by World Cup preparations.

There is no doubt that both men, by no means the most hawkish of the owners, believe themselves to have been forced into a corner by the intransigency of the RFU, specifically Cliff Brittle and Fran Cotton, chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the union's management board. They find it insulting that their players — their employees — should be cajoled into toeing the RFU line without consultation.

"We went through what the players are earning and what they are likely to be offered by England," Barwell said. "We had a warm, amiable meeting and I don't expect any of my players will want to break my contract.

"I have sympathy with ambitious young players like Matt Allen and Budge Pountney and we don't want to stand in their way, but I have to stand up to Fran and tell him they're not going. I want him to come back to the table and discuss 'operation common sense', which we tried to do months ago."



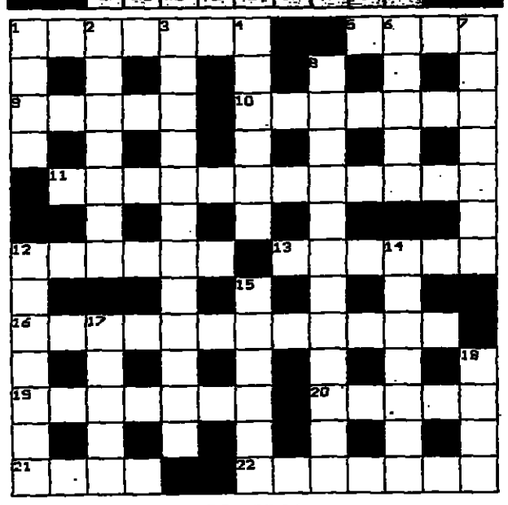
Wray: met players

Barwell has not had the same difficulty with Scotland and Ireland, who consult regularly over their player requirements, but both those countries, and Wales, will suffer if the English owners sustain their approach. Pat Whelan, the Ireland manager, admitted that they could not afford to tour South Africa in June without their England-based players, although Terry Cobner, the Welsh Rugby Union director of rugby, said that he could choose players from Welsh clubs alone when they tour South Africa, also in June.

"We have to appreciate that Keith pays our monthly wages and that his contracts give us security," Rodber, the Northampton captain, said.

"We as players are not angry, but we are frustrated that these problems have been around for so long and nothing has been done."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1344

ACROSS
1 Joshua's wall-tumbling battle (7)
5 Burglar's haul (4)
9 Bog (5)
10 Iran capital (7)
11 Meteor (8,4)
12 Recent: up-to-date (6)
13 Lament (6)
16 An added difficulty (12)
19 Supply; to free (7)
20 Run off to marry (5)
21 Dark gloom (4)
22 Piece of furniture: lady's maid? (7)

DOWN
1 Proper: only (4)
2 Attained (7)
3 Self-interested affection (8,4)
4 Set of clothes (6)
6 Bottom of the class (5)
7 An officer; not particular (7)
8 Sentry's challenge (3,4,5)
12 John —, road-surface inventor (7)
14 In mood for love (7)
15 Frightened (6)
17 Tooth; per unit of substance (5)
18 Look at: noble (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1343
ACROSS: 1 Goodwill 5 Peal 9 Beside oneself 10 Otto 11 Antonio 13 Invoke 15 Svelte 18 Thready 20 Rick 23 Spitting image 24 Eros 25 Clansman
DOWN: 1 Gibe 2 Onset 3 Wedlock 4 Loofah 6 Eternal 7 Left-over 8 Melt 12 Distaste 14 Vertigo 16 Version 17 Hymnal 19 Anti 21 Chasm 22 Rein

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